

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

JOHN 1 - THE WORD

Background

- The Times
 - Written about 85-95 AD
 - John, in his early 20s during Jesus' ministry is now in his 70s or 80s
 - All but one book of NT has been written, nearly all written 30-40 yrs ago
 - Jerusalem is destroyed, Jews kicked out of the land on penalty of death
 - All the other apostles have been killed, most at least 20 yrs ago
 - Church mainly Gentiles
 - Heresies denying Christ as God in the flesh have arisen
- The Book
 - John, a common man with an uncommon Savior, gives us in the most simple words & grammar the most exalted, profound view of Jesus
 - Purpose in writing – John 20:30-31
 - Evangelistic gospel, only explicitly evangelistic book in the NT
 - Chose events and speeches to craft a book showing Jesus as God
 - 7 Witnesses to his divinity
 - 7 I AM statements
 - 7 Miracles as proof of divinity
 - Many titles of divinity
 - Two keys to the Gospel (SD Gordon, quoted in WTBIAA)
 - Back door key – John 20:30-31
 - Front door key, low down, in reach of even children – 1:12
- Greek view of reality
 - Two worlds
 - World of God, pure goodness, pure spirit, original, perfect, the model for this world
 - World we live in, mere shadows of the other world, evil, fleshly
 - God is too pure to create this world
 - This world came through series of emanations of progressively lesser beings until one existed who could touch evil matter created our world
 - Creator of our world is not God but a lesser, not eternal, partly evil being
 - Reason
 - Greeks highly esteemed reasoning & rhetoric
 - Wondered about why there is order in the world
 - Capricious gods of mythology
 - Still sacrificed to, not as worship but to keep them off their backs
 - Not seen as paragons of virtue, only the very distant God is so
 - Body seen as evil, spirit as virtuous
 - Stoics – keep the body in subjection so it doesn't harm the spirit
 - Epicureans – let the body do what it wishes, only spirit matters
 - Masses – eat, drink and be merry, there is no afterlife, keep gods satisfied w sacrifices of money, offerings

- Study background of Bible books but don't leave it there
 - Don't make Bible study merely an interesting historical exercise
 - Look at how their situation relates to ours'
- **How is the world of the late 1st century like ours'?**
 - Skepticism that we can know who God really is
 - Low view of the God with whom we have to do
 - Live life to please your self
 - Emphasis on pleasure
 - Spirituality can coexist w extreme sexual, other freedoms
 - Little thought for eternal destiny
 - High esteem for reasoning of science
 - Unbiblical view of how order in our world came to be
 - Significant #s, especially in Europe, believe there is no afterlife
 - God makes few inconvenient demands on us
 - God of Biblical Christianity does not exist, Jesus was not God
- **John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. Also read John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**
 - Descriptive Title #1 – Word = *Logos*
 - Word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea
 - Sayings of God, as in OT prophecy
 - Reason, cause for something
 - Gk poet – divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe
 - **Questions**
 - **What did God as *logos* mean to them?**
 - **What does it mean to us?**
 - **What is wonderful about Jesus being the *logos*?**
 - Jesus is God who left heaven to be with us, show us God
 - How rich is our understanding of God thanks to Jesus and the recordings of his deeds, words and being!
 - He is the reason for all goodness, order, correct understanding
- **John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. John 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. John 1:7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. John 1:8 He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. John 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, John 1:13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- Title 2 – Life is in Jesus (1:4) but He is also the Life (14:6)
 - **How is Jesus “the Life”?**
 - Responsible for our short life on earth
 - Responsible for our existence
 - Source of true, abundant life

- Source of our eternal life
 - **John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**
- Title 3 – Jesus is Light
 - **How is Jesus “the Light” and what does it mean?**
 - Through the light we see the light
 - In Him we finally see things clearly
 - Look at what is said about the Light
 - Jesus enlightens every man by his entrance into the world
 - Jesus is unknown to those who don’t (welcome) Him
 - Even his own did not receive Him
 - Those who do receive Him by faith He allows to become children of God
 - Born
 - Not of this world
 - Not of flesh (human effort)
 - Not by man’s will
 - But of God
- God, the communication of God, became flesh and lived among us
 - **John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:15 John *testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**
- **What does this tell us about Jesus and thus, God?**
 - God in the flesh
 - Full of grace
 - Not in opposition to the Law but in its fulfillment
 - We have received grace upon grace
 - Full of truth
 - Gives us his fullness – He holds nothing back in loving us
- Close of Ch. 1
 - **John 1:35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, John 1:36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" John 1:37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. John 1:38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and *said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" John 1:39 He *said to them, "Come, and you will see."**
 - Title 4 – Lamb of God
 - Invitation of Jesus
 - To those who seek Him
 - He says, “Come” – I came to you (1:14); come now to Me
 - He says, “and you will see”
 - See clearly for the 1st time

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

JOHN 2 - PURIFICATION

Overview

- Read the chapter straight through
- These 2 events are together here for a common purpose but let's take them one at a time

Wedding at Cana

- 3rd day
 - 1st day – John 1:35 – the day with John, Andrew, Peter – the first disciples
 - John and Andrew, disciples of John the Baptist, followed first
 - Andrew brought his brother Peter
 - 2nd day – Jesus purposes to go to Galilee
 - John was baptizing about 10 miles S of Sea of Galilee
 - Jesus found Philip
 - Jesus went looking for Philip
 - How did He know him?
 - Philip is also from Bethsaida, meaning House of Fish
 - Little fishing village of Andrew, Peter, John and James
 - Philip left to find Nathaniel
 - 2 of first 5 disciples were brought to Jesus
 - Ought to work that way today
 - Bethsaida is not really on the way to Cana from where they started
 - Thus, Jesus purpose in going to Galilee was two-fold
 - Collect disciples
 - Go to wedding in Cana
 - This day is Wednesday, the day virgins got married in Israel
 - Done so new husbands who protested that new wife was not a virgin could bring the case before the council, who sat Mon-Thurs
 - Jews were serious about chastity
 - The duty of one of the friends of the bridegroom was to ensure and defend the chastity of the betrothed – see 2 Cor. 11:2
 - Widows got married on Thursday
- Jewish weddings
 - Marriage was considered so holy it was nearly a sacrament
 - Betrothal was binding and included a signed contract binding both to certain duties and rights
 - Marriage ceremony
 - Took place in the evening
 - Began with circuitous parade through the village as friend of the bridegroom ushered bride from her house to husband's house
 - Everyone passed would praise the bride's beauty, modesty, virtue
 - Remember that this is a picture of Christ and the Church

- Many would join the procession festively arrayed and carrying myrtle branches or torches (oil lamps atop sticks)
 - Treats were handed out to the children
 - Trumpets and singing, shouting and laughter and rejoicing
 - At this time only was the bride's hair let loose in public, wore a veil
 - Received by the husband at their new home
 - A formal phrase was spoken like "take her according to the law of Moses and of Israel"
 - The couple were crowned with garlands
 - Contract was signed
 - Washing of hands
 - Solemn prayer of benediction
 - Marriage Supper
 - Food and wine (diluted 1 part wine to 2 parts water)
 - Toasts
 - Feasting
 - Led by friends of the groom to the bridal chamber
- Jesus' First Sign
 - Done at a wedding
 - Marriage
 - Foundational structure of society
 - Instituted even before there was sin in the world
 - Festive occasion – Jesus was not as dour as his church
 - Done by request
 - Jesus never did a miracle . . .
 - Just for show as devil tempted him to do
 - For personal ease as devil also tempted him to do
 - But always to glorify God
 - Always to meet a need
 - Mary's mother perhaps connected with the planning
 - Response of Jesus to his mother
 - Woman is used as a title of respect, also used by Caesar of Cleopatra and Ulysses of his beloved, faithful wife Penelope
 - My hour is not yet come
 - Did Jesus act out of God's will by doing this miracle?
 - No, this was a small scale concession in response to need and trust in Him
 - He would reveal Himself shortly in Jerusalem
 - Demonstrates his mother's faith in his supernatural ability, compassion
 - **Why involve Him** – He had no extra wine with Him
 - She didn't know what He would do
 - Just faith in his help
 - Good example for us
 - Whatever He says to you, do it
 - Best advice in the Bible
 - *Blank check trust*

- Used six stone pots of water
 - Designated for ceremonial purification of washing hands
 - Probably also used for washing guests' feet
 - Held 20 gallons each
 - Jesus ordered them filled to rim – **why?**
 - No detail of how He turned water into wine, just that He did
- Result was that disciples believed in Him
- Symbolism of the miracle – hold that thought
- Jesus, his mother, disciples and unbelieving brothers stayed in Capernaum for a few days
 - Those conversations must have been something
- Jesus was not ashamed of his family
 - He did not see himself as above their poverty and reputation
 - He was not ashamed of their unbelief but bade them join Him
- Probably stayed with cousin Peter's mother in law

Cleansing the Temple

- Time Issues
 - Many think there was a long break between verses 12 and 13
 - Jesus seen as starting ministry in fall rather than near Passover
 - Others think the temple cleansing story is out of chronological order
 - Inserted here to make a point
 - This was very common in Jewish writing as seen in Matthew
 - Doubt Jesus would have gotten away with two temple cleansings or that the other gospels would have mentioned it
- During Passover
- Background
 - Jews by law had to pay temple tax with Jewish half shekel coin
 - Jews came from all over the Empire with other coins
 - Even in Israel, Roman coins were used for typical commerce
 - Those in temple had outrageous fees, as much a day or two wages to change money
 - Jews by law had to present perfect, unblemished animals for sacrifice
 - Inspectors often rejected their animals and had them buy theirs'
 - High priest's family oversaw all this and profited handsomely
 - Temple also benefitted enormously
 - It was done in the first court of the Temple called Court of the Gentiles
 - Only court Gentiles could enter
 - For them it was like praying in the middle of a Middle Eastern bazaar
- Jesus was angry
 - At the business
 - At the change in atmosphere from prayerful to commercial
 - Consumed by zeal for his Father's house
 - Love for the house of God like David – see Ps. 69:9
 - Mark of a lover of God and true believer
 - Paired in Ps. 69 with rejection of his brothers
 - Zeal for God sets us apart

- Jesus gets violent
 - Makes a whip
 - Physically turns over tables with money on them
 - Drives out the animals
 - How do you think God feels about purity
 - In the house of God
 - Even more for the people in the house of God
- Leader's demand for the authority to take over the temple
 - Jesus did no sign for them
 - But he gave them a prophetic sign which they did not understand

What is the tie between these two stories?

- **Read James 4:8**
 - Written by one of Jesus' unbelieving brothers after he believed and became the leader of the Jerusalem church
 - Cleanse your hands you sinners and
 - Purify your hearts, you double-minded
- **Tie this into the two stories in John 2**
 - Jesus turned that which was used to cleanse hands into the best wine
 - Jesus cleansed the temple in which operated the double-minded
- It all starts with purifying ourselves
 - The other gospels start with John the Baptist and Jesus calling for repentance
 - John addresses the same issue symbolically
- If we don't have zeal, perhaps we don't have purity or prayer
 - Are we all about the business of God but not prayer time with God?
 - Are we about going through rituals rather than being changed?
- Jesus didn't come
 - To tell us how to do things better
 - He came to change us completely
- **Would you like to pray that zeal for**
 - purity and
 - prayer and
 - the house of God
 - **would consume you?**
- **Are you willing to take a whip and drive out anything that detracts from that?**
- **Are you willing to let God change you completely?**

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 3 – BELIEF IN THE SON

Overview

- Theme is belief in the Son
- Time is at Jesus' 1st Passover mentioned in the Gospels
- Story One – Jesus' words to Nicodemus about salvation
- Story Two – John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus

Jesus & Nicodemus

- Characters
 - Jesus was a young, poor, newly ministering itinerant preacher, doing miracles
 - Nicodemus was
 - Rich – shown at end of John
 - Pharisee – elite in obeying law, less than 1% of Jews
 - Member of the Sanhedrin – ruling body of the Jews
 - Teacher of Israel
 - In Babylon Jews had built fence around law, then made commentaries on it that made it still more difficult to break it
 - Developed very complex code of laws defining living by the Law
 - Ex – 24 chapters defining work on the Sabbath
 - No regular Jew could know it all so he went constantly to the lawyers for interpretations
 - No Jew esteemed higher than he that knew answers to all these
 - Some became very proud
 - Some were pious, probably including Nicodemus
- Setting
 - Jerusalem at Passover (not mentioned in other Gospels)
 - Jesus had been doing miracles
 - Nicodemus was impressed
 - Not by Jesus' technical knowledge but his power
 - Properly deduced that Jesus had come from God
 - Others saw the same thing and hated Jesus
 - In spiritual matters, heart influences understanding
 - Comes to this miraculously powerful young man with respect
 - Calls Jesus "rabbi"
 - Means master teacher or lord
 - Jesus had rabbinical training or credentials and was Nicodemus' junior in age and worldly position
 - Sent from God
 - Teacher
 - Nick comes at night – why?
 - Hiding from disapproval
 - Both worked during day and a private audience was impossible

- Probably both since word is night, not evening
- Jesus Reply
 - Unless one is born again he cannot the kingdom of God
 - Give Nick at Night credit – 1st to hear this term
 - With this term Jesus introduces idea of salvation
 - Works are not sufficient for man to be in good standing with God
 - Not natural concept to any man – working to please is
 - Not easily apparent in the OT
 - Jews thought they were in by virtue of being Abraham’s kids
 - Same misunderstandings today
 - I grew up in church, my parents are Christian, I’m an American
 - Live right and you’ll be OK
 - Read Romans 10:1-13
 - Zealous, but not according to knowledge – v2
 - God’s righteousness or our righteousness – v3
 - Salvation subjects itself to Christ – v3
 - Salvation is by faith – v4
 - Salvation believes that Jesus is God, risen from dead – v10
 - Salvation confesses that Jesus is Lord – v10
 - Salvation is for everyone – v11, 13
 - Salvation is looking to Christ as the antidote for our fatal malady – Jn1:14
 - See Numbers 21:6-9
 - Salvation is belief in Christ – 3:15, 16
 - Salvation provides eternal life – “
 - Salvation is because of God’s love – v16
 - Judgment comes because v18-20
 - Men loved darkness rather than light
 - Men refused to come to the Light (Jesus)
 - So, characteristics of salvation are
 - Coming to Christ
 - Faith in Christ
 - Trading our righteousness for Jesus’ righteousness
 - Subjection to Christ
 - Confession of Christ
 - Salvation is not our work to get right with God
 - Coming to Christ – God draws us – John 6:44
 - Faith in Christ – God gives faith – Romans 12:3
 - Trading our righteousness for Jesus’ righteousness – It is Jesus’ righteousness – Romans 3:21-24
 - Subjection to Christ – through his work in us – Phil 2:13
 - Confession of Christ – by zeal he puts in us – Phil. 2:11 – everyone confesses Christ as Lord when they see Him accurately
 - Salvation is belief in Christ as our only means of righteousness and subjecting ourselves to his Lordship in response
 - Why do people wrestle with getting saved?

- Refusal to believe
 - Refusal of subjection to his Lordship is rejected for love of darkness
 - Nicodemus will end up a believer – John 19:38-42
- Jesus and John the Baptist
 - **Read 3:22-26**
 - **Setting**
 - Judea, in the bottom third of the R. Jordan
 - Both John and Jesus' disciples are baptizing
 - All men it seems are going to Christ, few now to John
 - A dispute arises between John's disciples and a Jew about purification
 - Jew must have made some point unfavorably comparing John's baptism with that of Jesus
 - John's disciples complain about changing state of affairs
 - John, like Nicodemus is a prominent teacher in Israel w disciples
 - Rivalries can spring up in the ministry and more often than not are in minds of the followers, not the ministers
 - These disciples were more caught up in their allegiances and work than in looking to Jesus
 - John sets his disciples straight
 - I am not the Christ, this I testified to you
 - Bridegroom and his friend
 - Friend stands near to hear the groom's instructions
 - Rejoices to hear his voice
 - He loves the Bridegroom
 - His joy is in the bridegroom
 - This ought to be the case with us
 - When it becomes about us and not about Christ, it is trouble
 - Christianity is about Jesus. Period!
 - Jesus alone is come down from heaven
 - He tells us what he knows – no one knows it better
 - He speaks the words of God – divine words, perfect words
 - He is specially loved by the Father
 - God has given all things into His hand
 - Eternal life and freedom from the wrath of God is by Him alone
 - It's all about Jesus

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 4

Sorry, I mistakenly overwrote the Notes for Ch. 4

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 5 – JESUS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER

Chapter 5 is in two parts

- Controversy over a healing
- Jesus' relationship to the Father
 - Father and Son
 - Witnesses to Jesus

Healing at Bethesda

- During Feast of Tabernacles in September
- Pool of Mercy or Pool of Outpouring
 - Outside the city walls just N of the temple
 - Near a northern gate of the city where sheep entered - (for sacrifice)?
 - Five porches on which sick lay in anticipation of healing through angel, whose presence was discerned by stirring of the water
- Healing
 - Not sure if real or mythical – parenthetical explanation not in early manuscripts
 - If mythical, was probably bubbling up of spring that fed the pool
 - Do people frequent such places today? – Yes
 - Regardless, the method of “healing” differs from Jesus' healings – how?
 - Impersonal
 - Magical
 - Attained by human effort to grasp healing
 - People laid there for years waiting their turn
 - Do you wish to get well? – probably device to get his attention
 - Jesus did nothing visible
 - Just told the man to get up and walk
 - No show – no pushing on the forehead
 - But did require obedience to Jesus, someone the man didn't know
 - Jesus does not introduce himself, but slips through the gathering crowd
- Controversy
 - Jews (Jewish leaders) upset
 - Man was carrying mat on Sabbath
 - Who broke the Law? Tell us
 - Jesus found, warned man not to sin lest something worse happen to him
 - Does not imply sickness was due to sin
 - Jesus does not demand that the man believe in him
 - Jesus will teach about himself in a moment – let men decide

- Man shows no allegiance to Jesus but to keep himself out of trouble, reports Jesus

Jesus Relationship to the Father

- Claimed equality w God – v 16-18
 - By calling God, “My Father”
 - By appropriating Father’s right to work on the Sabbath
 - Jews knew God always works
 - For Jesus to apply that to himself was a divine claim
- Therefore, Jesus explained his relationship to God the Father – v 19
 - Son
 - Can do nothing of himself
 - Sees what the Father does
 - Does in like manner
 - This is our example – Cf. 15:5-8
- Father, because of his love for the Son, shows him all things Father does
- Raising the Dead
 - Father raises the dead and gives them life
 - Son does the same
- Judgment
 - Father does not judge
 - Gives all judgment to the Son
- Honor
 - All judgment done by Son so that, all will honor the Son as they do the Father
 - No honor to Son – no honor to the Father who sent him
- Eternal life
 - Hearing Jesus’ word
 - Believing Father
 - This man
 - Escapes judgment
 - Passes from death to life
 - This is the life the Son gives in earlier verse
- Raising the Dead
 - An hour is coming and now is – dual fulfillment
 - Dead will hear the voice of the Son and those who hear will live
 - All dead hear the voice
 - Only those who hear will live
- Life in himself
 - Father
 - Son
- Judgment
 - Father gave Son authority to execute judgment, Son being God and man
 - Resurrection of dead
 - Resurrection of life
 - Resurrection of judgment
 - Son judges justly because . . .
 - Not on his own initiative – doesn’t look for those to judge

- As I hear I judge – judgment based on God’s word
 - Not my will, but his be done – based not on my humanity but on God
 - This is the model for judges of all kinds
- Testimonies of Others about Me
 - Judgment is based on witnesses
 - Here are my witnesses as to who I am
 - John the Baptist
 - Works I do
 - These are a greater testimony than John’s
 - They testify that the Father has sent Me
 - Father’s testimony
 - Audible voice which you folks were not there to hear
 - Scriptures
 - Scriptures testify about Me
 - You search the Scriptures
 - You did not accept their testimony – Why?
 - Unwilling
 - You do not have the love of God in you
 - You seek glory from each other, not from God
 - Moses will be your judge since he wrote about Me
 - If you do not believe Moses, whom you revere, how will you believe my words?
- Notice
 - Jesus’ boldness in asserting equality with God
 - Jesus’ humility
 - Divine right to work yet as a workman in his Father’s shop
 - Making things according to his Father’s specifications & ways
 - Did not blow his own horn but pointed to witnesses
 - Jesus’ presentation of evidence
 - Care for the welfare of those facing divine judgment
 - All in the context of opposition from religious men of impure hearts

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 6 – JESUS' TESTS

Feeding of the 5,000

- Test of Phillip
 - Purpose
 - Not to give God an answer
 - Cause spiritual growth – Jas 1
 - Growth requires work
 - Grow your company w/o effort?
 - Grow your knowledge
 - Grow your muscles
 - Grow your children's maturity
 - Growth requires realization of need or desire
 - **Desire of Jesus** to feed multitude
 - In another gospel, disciples picked up on the need/desire
 - Asking Philip, who is from the area where to find food
 - Jesus does not ask about getting the money, just where to find it
 - Philip responds w statement that shows lack of resources even to do it poorly
 - Philip did not say, "Ask Judas how much \$ we have"
 - Disciples lived from meal to meal
 - **Lesson - Realization of poverty, inability** to meet it ourselves
 - Andrew brings the boy with the sack lunch
 - Barley – poor man's bread, sardines (for which the lake was famous)
 - Child must have overheard and offered his lunch
 - Not so much an act of faith but of sacrifice
 - This is the heart of all true ministry
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit for they shall see God
 - **Lesson - Offering of what we have, insufficient as it is**
 - Jesus tells disciples to get people organized
 - Uses them to distribute the food and pick up leftovers
 - **Lesson - God uses us to carry out ministry but it is not our doing**
 - Don't ever forget it
 - My glory I will not share with another – Is. 48:11
 - Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me – John 8:54
 - Our knowledge, our spiritual insight, our money are gifts to glorify God and build his church
 - Our gifts are not ours at all – we rent every tool we use
 - We pay with loaned \$ - remember the talents?
 - If we ever puff our chests and tell people remember that it was me that gave you that \$ or that ministry we dishonor God who will not leave the guilty unpunished – Nahum 1:3

- Disciples picked up 12 baskets of leftovers
 - Custom was to leave some food for the servants
 - Everyone carried a foldable basket when they journeyed or sojourned
 - Large enough to hold a meal
- **Lesson - God feeds those who minister in his name**
- **Need is met**
- **God receives glory – v. 14**
- Crowd wanted to make Jesus king by force (Messiah ruling on throne of David)
 - Crowd response to miracles is not always right
 - It was them in charge, charging ahead according to their own desires
 - They did not ask Jesus what He wanted
 - Aftermath of a great miracle was that Jesus withdrew from them
- Rowing across the lake
 - Think about 10 hours straight on the rowing machine at the gym
 - Total inability to do what they had done countless times – row few miles across the lake
 - They had to call on Jesus
 - When they received Him into the boat, immediately they reached their goal
 - After disciples were used in a great miracle came inability to do simplest thing
- **Lesson - Apart from Me you can do nothing** – John 15:5
 - Have you ever been greatly used and the next week greatly disappointed yourself?
 - Monday blues for preachers
- Third Crowd Encounter
 1. Teaching
 2. Feeding
 3. Following
 - Right schedule but wrong attitude
 - Crowds row easily across the lake
 - v. 26 – You seek Me . . . they did seek Him but for the wrong reason
 - In what sense does Jesus mean v 27?
 - Don't work for what perishes but what endures
 - Not talking about salvation but about food
 - Work for it but it is a gift – how does that work?
 - God owes us nothing, not even for our work
 - God will never be in your debt
 - Not for prayer or fasting, ministry to homeless
 - You cannot earn an answer or miracle
 - No matter how long you fast
 - No matter how noble your request
 - God's favor is always a gift done at right time in the right way
 - Its not like UPS – there is no promised delivery date, no tracking #
 - We live by faith in God's goodness and wisdom
 - Crowds will always follow miracles, especially when they are recipients
- Q sounds right – what shall we do to work the works of God? – Is it?
 - Who works the works of God? – You or God?
 - Your work is to believe – faith is the foundation of our part of the relationship

- OK – why should we believe in you? Give us a sign!
 - Do you see the heart of this crowd? Jesus exposed it quickly
 - You fed us for a meal, Moses fed us for 40 years
 - Moses fed us not with bread from a basket but bread from heaven
 - The sign they wanted was for manna to fall
- How does God respond to a demand for a sign?
 - People never seem to stop asking for signs
- Moses did not give you bread
- My Father gives you (present tense) i.e. is right now giving you The True Bread from heaven
 - Manna was only a symbol of Me
 - You seek the symbol and reject the reality
 - You have only one set of eyes – carnal eyes that see only carnal things
- The bread of heaven is that which
 - Comes down from heaven
 - And gives life to the world (continuously)
- “Always give (continuously) this bread”
 - Still misunderstanding, they want Jesus to give something
 - Jesus gave Himself
- V.35
 - I am the fulfillment of all hunger and thirst
- Those who come to Me
 - You do not believe
 - **Those who do – list on the board**
 - Are given Me by the Father
 - Come to Me but not on their own initiative
 - I will certainly not cast out
 - I will not lose
 - I will raise up at the last day
 - Will have eternal life
 - Have been drawn by the Father – v. 44
- This is the will of him who sent Me
 - I don’t do my own will but his
 - His will is that I keep all that He gave Me
 - Do you think Jesus can do this?
- I am the bread of life
 - Your fathers ate manna and died
 - Eat of Me and you will not die
- Course of the Conversation
 - Jesus gets progressively more difficult and mysterious in his words
 - As they harden in their unbelief
- The crowd finally rejects Jesus and leaves
 - Even many of his disciples leave
 - Not the 12, yet even they have an unbelieving traitor

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH REVIEW/OVERVIEW JOHN 1-7

- 7 is a companion chapter to 6
 - 6 takes place in Galilee, Capernaum just before Passover
 - 7 takes place in Jerusalem during Feast of Tabernacles
 - All Jesus' events in Jerusalem are during the feasts
 - Crowds
 - Fickle in both, especially 6
 - Mixed in 7
- Both give us
 - Insight into who Jesus is
 - Fulfillment of
 - Chapter 6
 - Manna
 - Passover
 - Chapter 7
- Who is Jesus so far in John?
 - Chapter 1
 - Word, the revelation of God
 - Eternal Creator – 1:13
 - Light – 4, 5
 - Source of Life – 4, 5
 - Word made Flesh - 14
 - Bridge between heaven and earth – 51 Jacob's Ladder (hinted)
 - Ch. 2 – Cleanser and Transformer
 - Cleanses temple
 - Turns water into wine
 - 3 – Source of eternal life (3:14-16)
 - 4
 - No respecter of persons
 - Prophet
 - Source of living water
 - 5 – One Sent from the Father to Judge
 - 6 – Bread of Life – 35
 - 7 – Source of Living Water
- Throughout – “Believe in Me”
 - John 1 – receive Him – 1:11-13
 - Ch 2:11
 - Ch 3:12-17
 - Ch 4:39
 - Ch 5:43-47
 - Ch 6:35-36
 - Ch 7:38
- Read the chapter

- Jesus is big on timing
 - Ch 2 – his mother
 - Ch 7 – his unbelieving brothers
 - In both cases He acted after saying this
 - Mother – not time for his revealing
 - Disciples – late entrance, maybe because opposition from leaders
 - We have one sense of timing – do it now!
 - Word here is not *hora* (hour) but *kairos* which has sense of opportunity
- Attitudes toward Jesus
 - Brothers – ridicule
 - Crowd – a good man
 - Crowd – leading people astray
 - Leaders – hostile
 - Leaders – astonishment (at his teaching with no formal training)
 - Crowd – demon-possessed, i.e. mad
 - Crowd – questioning
 - Crowd – believing
 - Crowd – division, partially based on good Bible knowledge but imperfect information
- Fulfillment of the Feast

David L Hoshour

Read 7:1-13

Jesus in Galilee

Q – Did Jews thwart Jesus’ plan?

A – No, what He foreknew He worked into His plan of ministry.

- Has 1.5 yrs left in His ministry, most of which will be in Galilee, Perea
- Almost all of John’s remaining material will be in Jerusalem
- In fact, even of Ch. 1-6 only time John talks about Galilee is
 - Cana wedding
 - Return to Cana – healing of royal official’s son
 - Feeding of 5000
 - This brief mention
- Jesus work in Jerusalem centered around attending the feasts

Feast of Tabernacles or Booths

- 1 of 3 required feasts – Passover, Pentecost are the others (in Spring)
- Many people’s favorite feast
- Favorite of those living afar off in diaspora
- Late September
- Commemorates time in Wilderness, deliverance from Egypt
- Built booths of branches everywhere and lived in them for a week
- Rooftops (most were flat), yards, alleys, streets, countryside, even temple
- Harvest festival
- City packed with people from far off
- Temple is packed
- Many sacrifices from those who had not been to temple in months
- Picture smoke going up from temple, visible for miles, smell it
- Look at hills surrounding city, with lines of pilgrims on the roads
- Look at rooftops and the booths on every one
- Streets full of pilgrims
- You have family, relatives coming for a week, preparations to do
- Excitement

Brothers

- What a perfect time to reveal yourself, do signs, go on up
- Jesus – I have a time for everything but you don’t
 - The world hates me because I testify that its deeds are evil
 - i.e. – I can’t spend much time in Jerusalem

Q – Did Jesus lie to His brothers?

A – No, He leaves it a little unclear, doesn’t say “at all”

In Jerusalem

- Crowd is buzzing about Jesus, “grumbling”- arguing
- “Jews” are seeking Him also
 - Apparently well-known that the Jews were unhappy w/Him, powerful men
- Jesus shows up in the middle of the feast
 - Goes to temple, begins to teach
 - Jews marveled at His teaching – remember age 12?
 - How did He learn w/o being educated?

- Bible trivia
- Depth of meaning and application others didn't see
- Jesus shrugs off the compliment – talks about source of His teaching
 - Anyone willing to do God's will knows whether this teaching is from God
 - Idea of the necessity of a right heart in understanding Scripture & discernment
 - Witness of Spirit to a clean heart vs. great knowledge of men's teachings
 - Implies that they don't have it, then says it directly
- Why do you seek to kill me?
- Odd response of crowd – perhaps foreigners not fully aware of Jews hatred
- Jesus refers back to miracle on last visit of healing man on Sabbath at Bethesda
- Some of Jerusalem people marvel that Jews let Jesus speak publicly
- Crowd talking about where Jesus is from
 - Belief that Messiah would appear suddenly, out of nowhere
 - Not that birthplace was unknown but his appearing, deliverance would be sudden
- Jesus' response – you know who I am and where I am from
 - But, you don't know the One who sent Me
 - I am also from Him, i.e. heaven, his abode
 - Though He was God, Jesus always referred to Father's teaching, will, mission
- They (Jews) sought to seize Him but it was not His hour yet
- "Where I am going you cannot come" – going back to heaven
 - Jews don't get it
 - Jeremiah 29:13 – "you will seek me and find me if you search for me with all your heart"
 - They did not seek Him that way
 - They could not go to heaven, didn't believe in Him

Pause after v. 36 – There is a break here before events of last day of feast

- 7 days
 - 1st 2nd, 7th holy, Sabbath days
 - Middle days are ½ holy days on which Jesus taught
- Events of last day – "great day" of the feast
 - Everyone leaves booth at daybreak
 - Dressed in festive clothes
 - Carried *lulabh* in R. hand – branches of willow, myrtle, tied w/ palm between
 - Carried *ethrog* in L. hand – branch of fruit tree
 - 3 places to go – pick one
 - 1st – Temple to attend the morning sacrifice – 7 bulls
 - 2nd – Below Jerusalem to Moza to cut willow branches – would take these back to form a canopy over the altar as priests blew their trumpets

- Ministry
- Not a life of drudgery but of abundant life
 - Drudgery comes from being of 2 minds, sitting on the fence
 - Sitting is apt term – we do nothing when we are double-minded
 - James – double-minded man is unstable and will receive nothing from God

More you seek Christ, the greater your joy, the greater your effectiveness in ministry

You fulfill your purpose

Joy is such that even in the dungeon you sing praises unto God

Contagious Christianity

In Last Days your sons and daughters will prophesy

“Prophesy” comes from root word which means “to bubble up, as a spring”

Seek especially that you might prophesy (be so full of the Holy Spirit that the Spirit bubbles out of you), especially in speaking the Word of God

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 8

Review

- Theme of John – Jesus is the Son of God who gives life
- Location – mainly Jerusalem, every chapter but 4, 6
- Characters – Jesus, Jewish leaders, disciples, host of minor characters
- Plot – God comes to earth, reveals Himself, is rejected, crucified, brings salvation, rises, returns
- Acts
 1. Introduction – Ch. 1:1-13
 2. God reveals Himself to world – Ch. 1:14-12:50
 3. God reveals Himself to His disciples – Ch. 13-17
 4. Jesus dies for our sins and raises Himself from dead – Ch. 18-20
 5. Conclusion – Ch. 21
- All these are foreshadowed in Introduction
 - God comes to earth, is rejected by His own- 1:11-14
 - Gives them power to become sons of God through faith – 1:12
 - Reveals the Father to us – 1:18

We are now in Act 2, longest act

Main features of Act 2

- Who Jesus is
 - Ch. 1 – Word become flesh
 - Ch. 2 – One who transforms
 - Ch. 3 – One who saves us from sin
 - Ch. 4 – Messiah that gives living water
 - Ch. 5 – Healer, God Himself
 - Ch. 6 – Provider, Bread of Life
 - Ch. 7 – Giver of living water
 - Ch. 8 – Forgiver, Light, Truth, the one who sets men free
- Reaction of the World
 - Some accept Jesus
 - Some reject Jesus
- Jewish leaders dispute with Him

Jesus had disputes with Jews throughout John 1-12

1 – Rejection mentioned in a summary statement (11)

2 – Cleansing the temple

5 – In trouble for healing lame man at Bethesda on Sabbath

7 – v. 20 - “You have a demon. Who is trying to kill you?”

v. 30 seeking to seize Him, v. 43-44

8 – “You are a Samaritan and demon,” crowd tries to kill him

9 – In trouble for healing on Sabbath again

10 – Demon, insane, try to kill Him again (31)

- 11 – From that day on they planned together to kill him (53)
- 12 – Seeking to kill not only Jesus but Lazarus (9-11)

Only 3, 4, 6 w/o controversy with Jews

- Only chapters that take place away from Jerusalem
 - 3 – Private conversation, then baptizing in Judean countryside
 - 4 – Samaria
 - 6 – Galilee (although lost almost all of His disciples over hard words)

Why did they hate Jesus so much?

Not looking for secondary reasons

- Blasphemy (5:18, 10:33) – for this cause they were seeking to kill Him – making himself equal with God
- Healing on Sabbath
- Afraid of losing their power (11:47-48)

Primary Reason – Religious, but not of God

- Their deeds were evil, everyone who does evil hates the light
 - John 3:20 – “For everyone who does evil hates the light; and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”
 - 8:44-47 – deceived and incapable of hearing because not of God but of the devil
 - 7:17-18 – discernment of God’s Word only comes after salvation, only when we are willing to do His will

Lesson of woman caught in adultery (8:1-11)

- Lesson is not
 - Letting the woman go
 - Reversing law on adultery
 - Reversing capital punishment
 - Telling us not to judge – we are told to judge
- Lesson is that
 - Jewish leaders were unfit judges (local application)
 - Judges must judge in righteousness (universal application)
 - Context of Act 2 of John tells us this
- Unsaved men are not worthy to judge
 - Lack ability to discern
 - Have wrong motivations
 - Seeking glory from each other
 - Enhancing own power
 - Trapping Jesus

Requirement for judges – Ex. 18:20-21

- Able men
- Fear God
- Men of truth
- Hate dishonest gain

We have unrighteous judges

- Spreading evil by making laws not their place to make
- Church stands idly by

Woman caught in adultery is favorite text of Jesus meek and mild crowd

- Jesus was dangerous, controversial revolutionary
- Article in Faith & Values section about why we are so angry
- Time to be angry

Our problem is not we are not nice enough – most Christians are very nice

Problem is that we are not revolutionary

- We don't stir people up
- Jesus came to bring sword, not peace
- To bring division, not unity

Jesus is light of the world – 8:12

Benefits of Light

- Illuminates
- Reveals
 - Good and evil
 - Truth and error
- Warms

2 reactions to light

- Reaction of those seeking to do His will
 - Makes us free – v. 31-32
 - See ourselves more clearly – see our true state so we repent, receive forgiveness
 - See world more clearly
 - See God more clearly
 - See our path
- Reaction of World
 - Convicts them of sin, brings shame, they hide from it – 8:9
 - Hate it – John 3:20

Those who follow Him also walk in the light

Q - How will they treat us?

A – Depends on if we act like Jesus

Jesus exposed their dark hearts

- W/o naming their sins or calling them sinners
- Light of his purity illuminated their evil deeds
- Like white, off-white shirts
- Like illumination under special lights like on CSI

Truth shall make you free is conditional – if you abide in My Word

- **Q – Are you immersed, staying in the Word? If not, you won't know the truth**

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH CLASS

JOHN 9 – BLIND BUT NOW I SEE

Blind Man

- Man suffered blindness so that the works of God might be displayed in him
 - Bringing wholeness was secondary to showing the glory of God
 - Even at expense of blindness
 - Happiness is not the goal in life
 - Happiness cannot be continuously maintained
 - God is sovereign
 - We trust his perfect goodness and knowledge in working the highest good
 - Don't ever base your faith in God's acceptance, love and care on how things are going
 - Up
 - Down
 - God never changes
 - Rom 8:35-37
- Night is coming
 - No man can work then
 - Work the works of God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind
- I am the Light of the World
 - Feast of Tabernacles
 - Lighting of the four huge menorahs in Court of Women
 - Stadium seating set up – huge, enthusiastic praise service
 - Light could be seen for miles
- While I am here
 - When I am gone, you will be the light of the world – Matt 5:14
 - Ever feel the weight of carrying on the ministry of Jesus?
 - How much work does a candlestick do?
 - As living menorahs the only required for us to shine is to keep full of oil
- Here's mud in your eye
 - Blind man, walk down to the Pool of Siloam and wash it off – Why?
 - Object lesson to the blind Pharisees
 - Lot of people saw him going and coming and talked about it
 - Humbling to go walking with muddy eyes – required trust
 - Remember Naaman the top general who had leprosy? – 1 Kings 5
- Jesus ignites a fire and walks away
 - If healing on the Sabbath is a crime to Pharisees, making mud would be worse
- Man's idea of Jesus was a prophet
 - Excommunication for confessing Jesus as Messiah
- Pharisees told the man to give glory to God for his healing and confess that Jesus is a sinner
- Man's answer
 - One thing I do know, though I was blind, now I see!

- Why do so many people love this verse?
- Look at the boldness of this man after being the object of the inquisition
 - What does v. 33 remind you of? – Nicodemus in Ch. 3
 - They believe what Jesus denied in v.3
 - Put him out – excommunicated him
- Then Jesus found him
 - No doubt the man wished Jesus had been there during the trial
 - Yet, it was during the trial the man went from I don't know if He is a sinner to this is from God
- Why did Jesus refer to himself as the Son of Man here and not Son of God?
 - Emphasis on identification with man but with a divine title
 - You have both seen Him (hallelujah!) and He is the one talking to you
- Lord, I believe and he worshipped Him
 - How do you reconcile v 39 with John 12:47?
 - Judgment as condemnation vs. judgment as separation
 - Jesus did come into this world to get people to decide
 - 2 central questions of life – Who is Jesus and will I reconcile and follow Him?
 - Not things associated with Jesus but Christ himself
- If you were blind you would have no sin
 - No one is blind – Romans 1, 2
 - Willful ignorance
 - There is no one so blind as he who will not see

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 10

Read 10:1-6 – Main Sheepfold

- Set in context of middle section of John – thieves and robbers are Jews
- Two types of sheep folds in Israel
 - Main sheepfold with door and doorkeeper
 - Out on the range with stone enclosure, shepherd slept in opening
- Voice of shepherd – see Morton quote in Barclay p. 65-66
- Main sheepfold w mixed group
 - His sheep know his voice and follow
 - We know his voice and follow Him
 - Those not His sheep go their own way
 - Or follow voice of another shepherd – who might that be?
 - Jesus spoke this against the Jews but they didn't understand

Read 10:7-19 – Remote Sheepfold

- Jesus is the door
 - Right way into the sheepfold
 - This sheepfold is the true church
 - Only his sheep are in it
 - Those that climb in are not sheep
- Repeat of thief and robber motif
 - Explanation of their motives – steal, kill, destroy
 - Those who come to steal – who are they?
 - Self-centered teachers
 - Proponents of another way
 - The evil one
- Good Shepherd as contrast to thieves and robbers
 - Jesus comes that they might have life – abundantly
 - Lays down his life for the sheep
 - Contrast with the thief
 - Contrast with the hireling – false shepherd
 - Knows them completely
 - Totally committed to their welfare
 - Who are the other sheep?
 - Gentiles
 - Aliens was the favorite interpretation in Czech
 - They will become one flock w/ one shepherd
 - He will die for them
- Jesus voluntarily lays down His life for the sheep – v. 17-18
 - Voluntary, not losing it in battling wolves
 - Has authority to take it up again

- Controversy over Jesus words – imagine that
 - Those that say he has a demon wonder why he is talking about sheep
 - Others get it
 - Constant focus on His works as proof of his deity

The Good Shepherd - Favorite image of Jesus

- Background on shepherding in Israel
 - Judea is arid, has rocky ground not suitable for farming
 - Better ground is toward sea, just around Jordan R., north
 - Orchards
 - Small grazing animals – goats, sheep
 - Sheep dumb, incapable animals
 - Don't do stupid pet tricks or fetch or do labor
 - Eat and sleep and say baaa
 - No great vocabulary like dolphin
 - Create little sheep
 - Prone to wander
 - Can really do nothing of themselves
 - Not flattering as pictures of us
 - Only real virtue is to grow wool, be tasty to eat
 - In Israel sheep were kept for wool
 - Some raised for sacrifice
 - Valuable to God simply because they have life
 - Tells us how valuable life is
- Jesus is pictured as a sheep
 - Why picture Jesus as “the lamb?”
 - He is one of us in a sense
 - Sheds light
 - On the incarnation – how far he descended
 - On God's love, that He loves creatures as far below Him as us
 - Perfect sacrifice – Innocent and pure
 - When appropriate, He can be as gentle, affectionate as lamb
 - Other times, He must be the lion
- Shepherds
 - Poor in this world's goods
 - Only a scrip (bag), slingshot, rod, staff, bedroll
 - Humble - lowliest of jobs, not for the ambitious, arrogant, materialistic
 - Live with the sheep where they are
 - Lonely apart from human company most of the time
 - Low interest job for most of the time
 - Knows them very well over time
 - Shepherd will lay down his life for such lowly animals if need be
- Job
 - Provide for them
 - Food and water
 - Healing

- Direction to good pasture, away from danger
- Protect the sheep at all costs
 - From predators – wolves, bears
 - From disease
 - From themselves – can get tipped on their back and unable to get up
- Raise them for a purpose
 - Wool
 - Sacrifice
 - No blemishes
- Think about shepherds as examples of
 - Fathers
 - Teachers
 - Leaders
 - Church
 - Group leaders
 - House parents
 - Managers on the job

David L Hoshour

TRUE LOVE JOHN 12

Jesus' love in John 12:32-36

- **Compassionate**
- **Acts on his compassion** to relieve suffering, show glory of God

Mary's love

- **Extravagant** – gave all she had
- **Humble** – at his feet
 - She was also at his feet when learning & prior to raising of Lazarus
- **Unashamed** – woman letting her hair down was only for husband or prostitutes
- What was her motivation?
 - Belief that Jesus was about to die
 - Didn't wait until the funeral to do something loving or say something nice
 - Not anointing for burial smell – see Jesus' response to Judas
 - Didn't pour the whole bottle, but apparently later would
- **Effect** of her loving act
- Whole house was filled with the fragrance
- No one ever forgot that fragrance – always reminded by scent of perfume
- Lazarus – what do you think he was thinking?

Martha

- **Always serving, showing hospitality**
- Not even her house – belonged to Simon the Leper (Mark)
- Her love language was acts of service
- I believe Jesus responds to all love languages

Jesus' warning about misdirected love – v. 25

- He loves his soul loses it
- He who hates his life [soul], i.e. does not value it in this world will keep it to life eternal
- **Love is not self-centered (does not seek its own)**
- If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me – recalls the love of Ruth for Naomi
- **Love involves commitment and attachment and service or ministry**

Jesus' love – 12:27-36

- For his Father – seeks the Father's glory
- For us – willing to be crucified to draw men to Himself
- Remove the barrier, reconcile them and draw them close
- **Self-sacrificing**
- **Desires closeness and is willing to sacrifice at great cost in order to gain it**

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 12

Jesus the Outlaw

Read 11:44-48

- Many believed in Him because He raised Lazarus from the dead
- Others went to tell the Pharisees
 - Some love to tell on other's "bad" deeds
 - Some want to be a part of bringing someone down
 - How do you tell on someone raising a man from the dead?
- Jesus is divisive
 - You're either for Him or against Him
 - Either God in flesh or just a man
 - Servant and disciple or unbeliever
- Reaction of Jewish leaders
 - Chief priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees
 - Sadducees were party of cooperation with Rome, very political
 - V 48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him. . ."
 - Everyone but you? – what does that say?
 - Exaggerated claim that Rome would take "our place and our nation"
 - Because of commotion?
 - No, really concerned about their place of authority
 - Pride of man is irreconcilable with being a servant of God
 - It must fall
 - Remember the Pharisee and the Publican story?
 - Salvation is not just about belief but surrender and proper relation to God.
 - Salvation is surrender
 - Not to enemy but rightful commander, come back from AWOL

Read v 49-53

- Caiaphas' unwitting prophecy
 - Couldn't have said it better
 - Out of the mouth of babes, donkeys, ungodly high priests. . .
- From that day they planned together to kill Jesus
- Jesus withdraws - v. 54
 - Not sure where Ephraim is
 - Some think Bethel, north of Jerusalem
 - Other Gospels seem to indicate it was actually across the Jordan
 - Jesus stayed with the disciples for a month?
- God had a plan – to offer Himself as the perfect Passover sacrifice
 - Jesus' anticipation and struggle didn't start in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - Actually started when He realized His mission
- Better chapter break after v. 55

Read 11:55-12:2

- Word “now” often introduces a new subject
 - Therefore is not a good spot for a break – it is a connecting word, showing cause, effect
- 6 days before Passover – into last week of Jesus’ life
 - Climax, the main reason Jesus came, High Noon
 - Second ½ of John is devoted to this time
 - Why does John use the word, “therefore?”
 - Why did Jesus “therefore” come to Bethany six days before Passover?
- John starts Passion Week with a meal and ends Jesus’ free time with a meal
 - John skips the other incidents of that week, except for the triumphal entry – Why?
 - Starts with ministry to Jesus, ends with Jesus’ ministry to disciples
 - Not the disciples who minister to Jesus
 - Who is it?
 - Martha the servant, Mary at Jesus’ feet, Simon the (former) Leper – see Mark
 - Meal is not at Lazarus’ house but at Simon the Leper
- Jesus defends Mary’s extravagance
 - Notice Judas is already intending to betray Jesus, hasn’t been in Jerusalem for 4 months
 - Not the place for us to talk about Judas but a very strong clue to his real character is here
 - Notice the contrast between Mary and the chief priests concerning pride
 - Between Mary and Judas concerning \$
 - When Mary anointed Jesus, she in effect also anointed herself
 - Mary the servant smelled just like Jesus the Servant
 - If you were facing the other way, you didn’t know if it was Mary or Jesus that just came in
 - Next time you sit behind an older lady with heavy perfume, think of Mary and Jesus
 - Fragrance of Jesus during Passion Week was the fragrance of Mary’s perfume
 - Mark quotes Jesus saying, “She has done what she could.”
 - Could she stop the death of Jesus? No. She did what she could – give extravagantly.
 - What can you do that you haven’t done?
 - Don’t die with your tithes and offerings in your bank account.
 - Don’t die with your involvement in ministry still undone.
 - Don’t save your compliments
 - Don’t save your gifts
 - One act of kindness is worth a thousand good intentions.
 - Jesus didn’t die with Mary’s ointment sitting unused on the shelf

Read 12:9-11

- Multitude came to see Jesus and Lazarus
- Why is Lazarus targeted for murder?
 - A – To hide the evidence

- Go ahead, but in a few days bodies will be coming out of tombs all over Jerusalem – Matt. 27:52
- Notice contrast between multitude and leaders

Read 12:20-26

- Greeks seeking Jesus
 - Proselytes?
 - Philosophers?
- Fruit comes from death
 - Jesus – death in the earth
 - Us – death of our self-interest
 - Martyrs are the church’s glory
 - Chinese Christians

Read 12:27-36

- God speaks from heaven
- Notice the continuing threads of this chapter
 - Division and Confusion
 - Jesus’ intentions and understanding v the crowd’s intentions and understanding
 - Confusion over the voice
 - Type of glorification
 - Type of deliverance
 - Identify of Son of Man
 - Division of the cross
- Once again refers to Himself as “the light”
 - Division continues through v. 43
- Jesus’ instructions - “Believe in Me”
- “Believe that the Father has sent Me.”

David L Hoshour

TRUE LOVE JOHN 12

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 12 – Additional Material

Sacrificial Love

(A Tribute to Don)

October 4, 2004

Labor of Love

I was driving home from work one day and turned on the radio. There was a feature on Robertson McQuilkin, the president of Columbia Bible College and Seminary.

McQuilkin was interviewed by Christianity Today. He revealed that he was torn between two commitments, caring for his wife and being president of the college. His wife, Muriel, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It started out subtly, first just repetition of a story she had just told. When her memory further deteriorated, she was given a full battery of tests which confirmed that she had Alzheimer's. But because she didn't have the physical deterioration, there was some question. They went to Duke University Medical Center to get a second opinion. Mr. McQuilkin's heart sank as the doctor asked her to name the Gospels and she looked pleadingly at him for help.

Mr. McQuilkin says Muriel never knew what was happening to her. Occasionally on TV when there was reference to Alzheimer's she would muse aloud, "I wonder if I'll ever have that". He says it did not seem painful for her, but "it was a slow dying for me to watch the vibrant, creative, articulate person I knew and loved gradually dimming out".

He approached the college board of trustees with the need to begin the search for his successor. Mr. McQuilkin told them that when the day came that Muriel needed him full-time, "she would have me". He says, "So began years of struggle with the question of what should be sacrificed: ministry or caring for Muriel. Should I put the kingdom of God first, 'hate' my wife and, for the sake of Christ and the kingdom, arrange for institutionalization? Trusted, lifelong friends - wise and godly - urged me to do this".

"Muriel would become accustomed to the new environment quickly." Would she? Would anyone love her at all, let alone love her as he did? He had often seen the empty, listless faces of those lined up in wheelchairs along the corridors of such places, waiting, waiting for the fleeting visit of some loved one. In such an environment, Muriel would be tamed only with drugs or bodily restraints, of that he was confident. He chose to start caring for her. After three years, she still knew her family. She could not comprehend much, nor express many thoughts, but she knew who she loved and lived in happy oblivion to almost everything else.

McQuilkin said, "She is such a delight to me. I don't have to care for her, I get to. One blessing is the way she is teaching me so much - about love, for example - God's love".

“Later Muriel could not speak in sentences, only in phrases and words, and often words that made little sense: ‘no’ when she meant ‘yes,’ for example. But she could say one sentence, and she said it often: I love you.”

She not only said it, she acted it. The board arranged for a companion to stay in the home so he could go daily to the office. During those two years, it became increasingly difficult to keep Muriel home. As soon as he left, she would take out after him. With him she was content; without him, she was distressed, sometimes terror stricken. The walk to school was a mile round trip. She would make that trip as many as ten times a day. Sometimes at night, when he helped her undress, he found bloody feet. When he told his family doctor, the doctor choked up. "Such love," he said simply. Then after a moment, "I have a theory that the characteristics developed across the years come out at times like these." McQuilkin wished that he loved God like that - desperate to be near him at all times. Thus, she taught him, day by day.

As Muriel needed more and more of him, he wrestled with who should get him full time, Muriel or Columbia Bible College. As McQuilkin explains it, “When the time came, the decision was firm. It took no great calculation. It was a matter of integrity. Had I not promised, 42 years before, "in sickness and in health . . . till death do us part? This was no grim duty to which I was stoically resigned, however. It was only fair. She had after all, cared for me for almost four decades with marvelous devotion; now it was my turn. And such a partner she was! If I took care of her for 40 years, I would never be out of her debt. It is all more than keeping promises and being fair, however. As I watch her brave descent into oblivion, Muriel is the joy of my life. Daily I discern new manifestations of the kind of person she is, the wife I always loved. I also see fresh manifestations of God's love - the God I long to love more fully.

McQuilkin was startled by the response to his resignation. Husbands and wives renew their wedding vows, pastors tell the story to their congregations. It was a mystery to him, until a distinguished oncologist who lives constantly with dying people told him, "Almost all women stand by their men; very few men stand by their women." Perhaps people sensed this contemporary tragedy and somehow were helped by a simple choice he considered the only option.

Here is the resignation speech of Robertson McQuilkin from Columbia Bible College and Seminary. You can read it below, but if you have speakers you should really listen to him give his speech. There is no way that the written word can capture the poignancy of the moment.

I haven't in my life experienced easy decision making on major decisions. But one of the simplest and clearest decisions I've had to make is this one, because circumstances dictated it. Muriel now in the last couple of months seems to be almost happy when with me, and almost never happy when not with me. In fact she seems to feel trapped, becomes very fearful, sometimes almost terror, and when she can't get to me there can be anger, she's in distress. But when I am with her she's happy and contented. And so I must be with her at all times. And you see, it's not only that I promised in sickness and in health till death do us part, and I am a man of my word, but as I have said, I don't know with this group, but I have said publicly, it's the only fair thing. She sacrificed for me for forty years, to make my life possible. So if I cared for her for forty years, I would still be in debt. However, there is much more. It's not that I have to, it's

that I get to. I love her very dearly, and you can tell it's not easy to talk about. She is a delight. It's a great honor to care for such a wonderful person.

Jack and Joy

Douglas Gresham wrote a biography of his beloved stepfather, called Jack's Life. Jack was the nickname for the famous Christian apologist C.S. Lewis. Gresham's mother, Joy, was married to Jack and had come down with bone cancer. What follows is Mr. Gresham's account of another example of sacrificial love.

"Joy was sent back to the Kilns to die in peace in her husband's home, but she didn't. She got better instead...Some interesting things happened to Jack and to Joy at this time. One was on an occasion that Joy was suffering from extreme pain in her legs. Jack prayed to God that if it was allowed, he should be permitted to take over the pain until an injection of strong painkiller, which had been administered by the nurse, could have time to work. At once he felt an indescribable agony settle into his legs, and Joy sighed with relief. The pain in Jack's legs lasted until Joy's injection took hold, and then it eased away. Also, Joy's bones began to re-grow. Her body was finding extra calcium from somewhere while, at the same time, Jack found himself suffering spasms of agonizing pain in his back. The doctors found that he had a condition known as osteoporosis, which is a loss of calcium from the bones, making them soft and spongy. So while Joy was gaining calcium from somewhere, Jack was losing his...These two...built one of the loveliest of love stories on the ashes of forlorn hope."

The Burden is Light

Margaret was returning home from grocery shopping. She turned into the driveway at the condo where she lived with her husband, Don. As she tried to turn into one of the parking spaces, she missed. Backing up, she tried again. Once again, she missed. This went on for several minutes. Finally, she was able to get her car parked.

Don was away from Washington D.C. in San Francisco on a business trip. He called Margaret that evening as he did every night. Margaret was somewhat incoherent in her speech. Margaret was having a stroke. This took place in 1989.

Margaret was already a frail woman. She suffered from emphysema, not from smoking, as she had never smoked, but from severe allergies and complications.

In 1990, she was requiring more and more care. Don, who enjoyed his work, was confronted with a decision. Should he retire or should he keep on working? The decision was easy. He chose to retire.

Margaret was put on oxygen and was now requiring constant care. Don started a routine that he was to keep up until the end. Since Margaret was now homebound, he taught himself to be a gourmet cook. He wanted Margaret to enjoy everyday pleasures. Don would leave the house

only to go to the market for the day's meal and to buy fresh flowers. He wanted to have fresh flowers for her everyday. They put up bird feeders out the back window, and spent the rest of their days together, enjoying life and each other's company.

Conclusion

Robertson McQuilkin and C.S. Lewis are well known in Christian circles. Their stories have been told time and again. Don will never be famous. His story is probably no different from thousands of other caregivers, spouses caring for spouses, parents caring for children, children caring for parents. Don's story hits a little closer to home for me. You see, Don is my father-in-law. These three men are my heroes. They gave all they had to give for love. Don always said, "The burden is light when you love the burden." However, I am sure none of these men would take credit. All needed Jesus. Don would tell you that being a caregiver wasn't in his nature, but Christ transformed him into the loving caregiver that he became.

C.S. Lewis tells us, "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung, and possibly broken." And, if we want to make sure of keeping our hearts intact, he tells us we are to give our heart to no one, not even to an animal. We must "wrap it carefully around with hobbies and little luxuries and avoid all entanglements. Lock it safe in the casket or coffin of our selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, and motionless, and airless, it will change. It will not be broken. It will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy in giving your heart away, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and agitation of love is Hell itself." To love is to be vulnerable, that is the nature of love.

Sacrificial love is patterned after Christ. We were made for love, just as Christ loves us.

Song

"You Are My King"

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true

It's my joy to honor You
In all I do, To honor You

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do, To honor You
In all I do, To honor You

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, You are my King
You are my King

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true

It's my joy to honor You

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do, To honor You

In all I do, To honor You,
In all I do, To honor You,
In all I do, Let me honor You.

From: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love, so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

David L Hoshour

TRUE LOVE & HUMILITY

JOHN 13

Jesus washing of his disciples' feet

- Setting – Jesus is hours away from his
 - Death by crucifixion
 - Departure from this world
- Loved his own to the last
 - Hours from agony in Gethsemane
 - His mind is on loving the disciples
- Knowing
 - That he would be ruler of all things
 - He was headed back to heaven & unhindered fellowship with his Father
 - Might have been a source of pride but for Jesus, was not
- Dual mindset
 - One eye was on heaven
 - One eye was on his disciples
 - This is our perfect example
- Too heavenly minded?
 - We cannot love our neighbor as ourselves w/o an eye toward heaven
 - Why?
 - Heaven teaches us how to love
 - Love is of God – 1 John 4:7
 - Remember contrast between world's idea of love and God's?
 - We know love by this: that He laid down his life for his disciples – 1 John 3:16
 - We cannot love God as we ought w/o an eye on those around us
 - He that loves not, knows not God for God is love – 1 John 4:8
 - How does the love of God abide in him? – 1 John 3:17
 - Knowing God's love builds us up to be like God – Eph. 3:19
- Demonstrated humility
 - Foot-washing
 - Always the lowest servant's job (no servant – no foot-washing)
 - Not even done by disciples for their teacher
 - Disciples of teachers in those days lived with their teachers that they might not only learn information but might observe the life of their teacher in hopes of being like him when they were fully trained – Luke 6:40
 - I am gentle and humble in heart – Matt. 11:29
 - Greek word *tapinos* (humble)
 - Literally “low-lying,” i.e. low to the ground
 - Unpretentious
 - Why is humility an essential part of love?
 - Opposite of humility is pride

- Love seeks not its own – 1 Cor. 13:5
 - Pride is self-centered, self-seeking
 - Puffed up (arrogant) – 1 Cor. 13:4
 - Love bears all things, believes all things (totally), hopes all things (always), endures all things (can endure anything) – 1 Cor. 13:7.
 - Pride allows none of these
- Peter's response
 - Never!
 - Show of pride
 - "I will stand up for your honor"
 - Rebellion to deny the ministry of Christ
 - Based on misunderstanding
- Lord's Response
 - Unless you are washed you have no part in Me
 - Not referring to foot washing
 - Or even to physical washing
 - Not all of you are clean
 - You who are clean still need your feet washed – meaning?
- This is as an example – v. 14-15
 - Footwashing
 - Phil 2:5-8 – **Have this attitude** in yourselves **which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - You are blessed if you do them – v.17
- Transactional Analysis
 - We tend to love in order to get
 - World's view of love
 - Christians do it too
 - Seed faith giving
 - Prayer or fasting to gain God's favor
 - David had a better motivation – he longed for the Lord – Ps. 143:6
 - Four orders of love
 - To get a reward or blessing
 - In obedience to God's command
 - Because it is right and good
 - Because we desire the good of the recipient enough to act
- A new commandment I give you
 - Love one another – stop
 - Is this really a new commandment?
 - Lev. 19:18 – love your neighbor as yourself, also Matt. 22:39
 - Deut 6:5 – love God with all your heart, also Matt. 22:36
 - Even as I have loved you
 - That's new – not love but the level of love

- Example is here in the foot washing
 - Another example seen in Eph. 5:25 – gave himself up for her
 - Outcome is that all men will know you are my disciples
 - Peter’s boast that he will lay down his life for Jesus
 - Intention and action are not the same
 - Our self-interest gets in the way
 - Peter did understand later and did lay his life down for Christ
- The laver and the altar
 - Priests washed before they went to the altar – see Ex. 29, Lev. 16
 - Just before Jesus laid his life on the altar as the Passover lamb he washed not his feet but the disciples’ feet
 - No disciple washed Jesus’ feet
 - Yes, one did
 - Mary, with her perfume, her tears and her hair
 - Authenticity of the gospels – in that day, or later no one would make the disciples outshone by a woman
- Barclay – Jesus loved his disciples
 - Selflessly
 - Sacrificially
 - Understandingly
 - Forgivingly

David L Hoshour

ABIDING IN CHRIST JOHN 15

Setting

- John 14:30-31
- I will not speak much more with you
 - Ruler of this world is coming (in Judas)
 - Hours before Jesus was crucified
 - On the way from Upper Room to Gethsemane
 - Night
- Judas is meeting with Chief Priests
 - He has nothing in Me
 - Perfect holiness
 - Yet, still was betrayed, beaten, put to death
 - I do exactly as the Father commanded Me
 - So that the world may know I love the Father
 - Perfect obedience displays love of God
 - How is this accomplished?
 - Being in the Father – see John 14:10-11

John 15 – abiding in the true vine

- **PPT #1** Wine influences scene from *French Kiss*
- What does Jesus mean by, “I am *the true vine*?”
 - **PPT #2** “True” is the Greek word *alethinos*
 - That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine.
 - 1A opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended.
 - 1B it contrasts realities with their semblances.
 - 1C opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain.
- My Father is the vinedresser
 - Master horticulturalist
 - Who decides what to do with the vineyard, the vine, branches, fruit
 - For his own purposes
 - For its prosperity
 - Takes away branch that is unfruitful
 - Sucker shoot, not a true branch
 - True Christian is fruitful
 - Not always in the same measure
 - Branch that never bears fruit may look like a fruitful branch but it is not
- He prunes (**PPT #3**) it that it may bear more fruit
 - Cleanses
 - Gets rid of that which hinders fruitfulness
 - Catharsis

- What might be examples of those things?
 - Your purpose is to bear fruit for the master
 - Say, “My purpose in life is to bear fruit for the Master.”
 - You are already clean – because of soaking up My Word day and night for 3 years
- Abide in Me and I in you
- Apart from Me you can do nothing
 - What is the nothing to which He refers?
 - What does it mean to abide? – stay, remain, live in
 - Not passive because the current of this world causes us to drift away
 - We have to make an effort to stay in it by prayer and bible study
 - Show me someone neither prayerful or in the Word; I’ll show you a fruitless branch
 - Bearing fruit
 - What does Jesus mean by fruit?
 - Galatians 5
 - Making disciples
 - In prayerlessness, evangelism is the first thing to go
 - “I can do it myself!!” – No; you can’t
 - There is a Father whom you ought never to leave
 - Those who don’t abide are burned – hell?
 - Not necessarily, just a picture of being worthless, possibly a refiner’s fire
 - If you abide in Me and my words abide in you, ask what you wish
 - Huge caveat
 - Bearing fruit
 - Fruitfulness
 - Glorifies the Father
 - Shows that you are my disciples

Love – v. 9-17

- My love for you is like my Father’s love for me
 - My love for you is such that I willingly sacrifice my life for you
 - Mega-love
- You are my friends
 - More than an acquaintance I pal around with
 - Includes idea of love, dear
- Stay in that love
- You did not choose Me; I chose you
 - Talking to his disciples
 - I chose you to go and bear fruit
- This I command you, that you love one another
 - Promise that God would give us what we ask is in the context of abiding and of fruitfulness
 - God is the one in charge here, we are not dictating to God but vice versa

Hate – v. 18-27

- If the world hates you, it has hated Me before it hated you
- You are not of the world
 - The world loves its own
- If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you
 - They do not know God
- They have no excuse because I came and spoke to them
 - Does this excuse those who have never heard?
 - No – all have sinned – Rom. 3:23
 - All have heard – Ps. 19, Rom 1, 2

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 15 (ALTERNATE NOTES)

Chapter 15 is the 3rd of 4 chapters on Last Supper

Setting of Last Supper

- Place – Jerusalem, in an upper room
- Time
 - Passover evening
 - Last meal with disciples
 - Night of his arrest
 - Hours from his separation from them
 - If it is 6 pm and at 12-1:00 you know you will be arrested, crucified – what would be on your mind?
 - What would you be like?
 - Like knowing you have so many hours to live – He had 21 hours to live
- Characters
 - Jesus and the disciples
 - What was on Jesus/ mind?
 - Ministry
 - The mark of a totally unselfish man
 - Song – “When He was on the cross, I was on His mind.”
 - Climactic fulfillment of His life was at hand
 - Intensity of emotion
 - Control
 - He knew, but they didn’t
 - Could you eat a meal hours before your crucifixion – let alone minister?
 - Yet He controlled it, channeled it into ministry
 - He was not thrown off by
 - Their bickering & immaturity
 - Judas lying next to Him through much of meal
 - Contrast His self-control, selflessness with theirs

Theme of Last Supper –

Communion

Not just less formal name for the Eucharist

Symbol of Jesus living in us

Webster’s – intimate fellowship

“Common Union”

Same root as “community” but more intimate sense here

God and man find a common union in Jesus – He joins, reconciles them

He is both God and man, so he joins God and man in fellowship

Principle of that communion is love

Ch. 13 – washing of feet demonstrates that love

Ch. 14 – talks about communion/unity of Father and Son

Promises God the Spirit who will be with us and in us

Read 13:17-20

Holy Spirit with us and in us

Jesus in the Father

Us in Jesus

Jesus in us

Verse 23 – both Father and Son in us

Do you want more of God?

You have the whole trinity abiding in you

Goal is not, “More of God” but, “More obedience to God”

This ends the Last Supper – they head for Gethsemane

Another Gospel says they leave singing a song

Soon Jesus is back on this subject with illustration of vine and branches – Ch. 15

John leaves out the break because the subject is the same

Vine and branches – Illustration of communion

- Necessity of maintaining that communion
- Fruit of that communion
- Read 15:1-11
- Identities
 - Father – vinedresser
 - Son – vine
 - Us – branches?
 - No, he does not say, “You are the branches.”
 - 2 kinds of branches in Jesus
 - Unfruitful branches
 - Taken away, gathered and burned
 - Are they the unsaved?
 - No
 - They were in Jesus
 - Fire is not necessarily hell-fire, perhaps just tribulation
 - Yes
 - Those that professed but didn’t practice
 - Those who heard, rejoiced and fell away
 - Jesus’ teaching is not as clear on salvation as is Paul’s teaching
 - Except for John 3, it is hard to see a line of conversion
 - Emphasis for Jesus is abiding and obeying
 - Let’s not get so caught up in identifying saved and lost
 - What matters is abiding and obeying, so do it
 - Keep your eye on the line you are plowing
 - Looking at others tends to make your line crooked

- This not a lesson on dividing saved, unsaved
- It is a lesson on importance and consequences of abiding in Christ
 - Choice
 - Jesus encourages us to abide in Him so it must be a choice
 - Do you want to be a dry, useless twig or a green fruitful branch?
 - Communion (abiding) is our choice
 - Choice is yours
 - Like God w/ children of Israel, He did His part, they must too
 - Communion is conditional
 - Depends on our obedience/love
 - Depends on our abiding in Him
 - God lives in you if you obey Him – See 14:23-24
 - Do you live in God?
 - No scale of obedience or abiding is mentioned
 - Obedience – no obedience
 - Abiding – not abiding
 - Fruit – no fruit
 - Importance
 - Last thing He taught them
 - How important is it that you obey and abide?
 - Apart from Christ you can do nothing
 - Severed branches produce no fruit
 - Severed branches serve no purpose – gathered, burned
 - Severed branches have no life – dry twigs
 - In Christ
 - Fruitful
 - Our purpose is to bear fruit – Rom. 7:4
 - It is pleasing to God for us to bear fruit – Col. 1:10
 - Bring glory to God – your purpose
 - Consequences
 - Love – 15:10
 - Joy – 15:11
 - Answered prayer – 15:7
 - Purpose – 15:8
 - Peace - 14:27
 - What else could you want in life?

Summary

- Notice I didn't talk about pruning, thing everyone talks about from this verse
 - Minor point
 - Word is actually “cleansing,” not pruning
- People dwell on negative but this is a positive message from Jesus
 - I'm leaving
 - I will live in you, you in Me, Spirit in you, Father and I will abide in you
 - It is your choice to abide and obey
 - If you will, I will give you love, joy, peace, answered prayers, and purpose

Fruit

Edible portion of plant – e.g. Gen. 3:2

Offspring – e.g. Gen 30:2, Lk. 1:42

F. of your lips (words) – Is. 57:19, Heb. 13:15

Results of actions – e.g. Jer. 17:10

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 16

REVIEW

Theme of Last Supper – communion

Ch 15 – 3 relationships

- Our relation to God – 15:1-11
 - Abide and obey
 - We will enjoy the love and joy of God
- Our relation to each other – 15:12-17
 - A new commandment
 - Love one another, just as Christ has loved us
 - Love is “acting in the best interest of another”
 - To the point of laying down His life for His friends - v13
 - Application – don’t confuse love with gushy or with being a pushover
- Our relation to the world
 - World will not love us – v. 19
 - Why – if you are like Jesus, it will hate you like it hates Jesus
 - We witness to the world with help of the Holy Spirit – v26-27

TODAY – Chapters 16, 17

Last Supper is teaching on living w/o Jesus in the flesh

Disciples must be trained for the next step

1. Watching Jesus
2. Helping Jesus
3. Becoming Jesus to those who cannot see Him any longer

What has Jesus told them they must do now that He is going away?

1. Love
2. Serve
3. Abide in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Actual order of growth – Abide, love, serve

Like transition from pews to SS

1. Desire to grow
2. Training
3. Serving

Put another way:

1. Baby only taking things in
2. Actively learning – Discussing – Praying – Encouraging
3. Productive servant

You don’t leave former things behind, you add things and keep doing them

Like raising kids

1. Babies who only take

2. Children who are being trained to be like their master (parents, God)
3. Adults that are like their parents and their God

Works every time – right?

Why not?

- Remember Jeremiah’s vision of the potter and the clay? – Clay was spoiled in His hand and remade according to the pleasure of the Potter.
 - Read Jer. 18:1-4
 - God brought calamity that spoiled the pot
 - You may think your kids (or yourself) are ruined but you are still in the Potter’s hands
 - It’s part of the process
 - For us, raising kids is like turning a clay pot on the subway, getting jostled, bumped
 - God is much bigger than you and me – for He can do what no other power can do
- Were the disciples great students?
 - At the end of Jesus’ ministry they were arguing about who is the greatest
 - But there was work going on underneath the surface
 - They were closer than they, or us as observers, would have thought
 - God was getting ready to turn them into great ministers of God
- What made the difference?
 - Holy Spirit
 - Prayer – abiding in Christ
 - Being ministers
 - Loving each other (Acts 2)
 - Did the world hate them? – yes and no

Read 16:1-15

What will the Holy Spirit do?

- Helper will help – v7
- Convict the world v8-12 concerning
 - Sin
 - Righteousness
 - Judgment
- Spirit of Truth will guide you into all truth – v13
- Bring all things to their remembrance
- Glorify Jesus – v14
- Disclose things to disciples – v15

Important promise verses for the inspiration of Scripture

- Remember that these are spoken primarily to the disciples
- These also apply to us, for we find similar promises to us elsewhere
- Be careful when you take a promise spoken to someone specific and apply it to you
 - Must have a warrant to do that
 - Spoken in universal terms – i.e “all men” or “all men”
 - Obviously universal concept
 - Supported by other scripture addressed universally or to believers
 - Everything must be confirmed by the testimony of at least 2 witnesses

Jesus and Resurrection Foretold

Read v16-22

Self-explanatory

v.23 – What does it mean that they will Q Him nothing?

- Surely not that they will have no Qs
- His voice to them will be plain
 - Direct orders and revelations to be obeyed
 - Not difficult sayings and parables

v. 24 – another difficult verse

- Ask the Father anything and He will give it to you?
- We read this with the wrong emphasis (emPHOsis)
- Where is the emphasis – receiving, or that things are given in *Jesus' name*?
 - Jesus is the mediator between Father and man
 - We ask in His name
 - We receive in His name
 - We don't ask Jesus
 - We ask the Father
 - If you want something from the King, you don't ask the Prince
 - Ask the King Himself, but in the name of the Prince
 - Prince allows us access to the King
 - King grants our requests
 - Jesus is not your messenger boy because you are too shy or awed
 - “Ask the King yourself, He will give it you, but ask in My name”
 - Teach us to pray – “Our Father . . .”
 - Not saying you can't talk to Jesus but requests go to the Father
- Ask anything – is this carte blanche?
 - No, that is obvious by biblical example and by experience, and common sense
 - Point is that we receive in Jesus' name
- Father loves you
- “Finally, you are speaking plainly – great!”
- Now we believe
 - Really? (recall Peter's earlier boast) – you will be scattered, even now
 - Why does Jesus respond like this to them, and earlier, to Peter?
 - Don't have confidence in yourself or in your status
 - They did believe, Peter was ready to lay down his life gloriously in battle
 - But they were not ready to lay their lives daily
 - God's way is to obey
 - God's way is to lay. . . down our lives every day

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 17

Probably only take two more weeks to finish up Gospel of John 18-19, 20-21
Next series – Informed and Active, starts in 3 weeks, Lord willing

REVIEW

Disciples must be trained for living w/o Jesus in the flesh

4. Watching Jesus
5. Helping Jesus
6. Becoming Jesus to those who cannot see Him any longer

What has Jesus told them they must do now that He is going away?

4. Love
5. Serve
6. Abide in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Were the disciples ready?

7. Not to us, but work was going on underneath the surface
8. They were closer than we would have thought
9. God was getting ready to turn them into great ministers of God

Promise of the Holy Spirit

- Helper will help – v7
- Convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, judgment - v8-12
- Spirit of Truth will guide them into all truth – v13
- Glorify Jesus – v14
- Disclose things to disciples – v15
- Bring all things to their remembrance

Jesus' Resurrection Foretold

Now we believe

- Really? – You will be scattered, even now
- Recall Peter's earlier boast

These things I have spoken to you that you might have peace – What things?

- What they should do – love, serve, abide
- What God will do – Help, guide, disclose, convict the world

Take courage for you will have tribulation in the world

TODAY – Jesus' prayer for his disciples

Read 17:1-26

V. 1 – These things Jesus spoke - Here ends the disclosed teaching of Jesus

- Lifting up his eyes to heaven, He said . . .
- Why is this significant?
 - Do you look down or up when you pray?

- Begin with praise and thanksgiving
 - Focus is on God, not you
 - “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed (holy) be thy name”
- Consecration
 - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
- Forgiveness

The hour has come!

- What hour? – Time to die for sins of the world, becoming sin, bearing our punishment
- Time to take keys of death, Hell, grave
- Time to lead free captives
- Focus of his whole life
- Reason He came
- Example – Anticipation of a trip, more fun than trip itself, can’t sleep night before
- Example – D-Day, but knowing exactly how it will be, knowing you will die tomorrow
- This night was 3 years in the making
 - No, planned from eternity past
 - Tonight is it
- Glorify Thy Son
 - 3rd person
 - Why glorify the Son? – It will glorify Thee (God)
 - Cross is both shame and glory
 - Bring Me through it successfully

V. 2 – purpose of the cross

- Eternal life for all that Father has given Him
 - What is eternal life?
 - To know only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent
 - They are a package deal
 - Not just, “know about”
- “Know” is the OT term for intimacy

V. 4 – I glorified Thee, having accomplished the work which You gave Me

- Work was to glorify the Father
- Did work God gave Him to do, not what He had in mind

V. 5 – looks forward to being reunited at last with Father

- Jesus’ joy – to abide with the Father
- This is the joy He gives us and also how we get it

V. 6 – Disciples

- What does it mean - “I manifested Thy name?”
 - Name is character
 - I showed them You and taught them who You are
- They were yours and You gave them to Me
 - Stewardship – parable of the talents
- Verdict on the disciples – They kept Thy word
 - Not a bad epitaph
 - Jesus gave them a better verdict than we might have
- They received God’s words

- Believed that Jesus came from God

V. 11 – Prayer for the disciples

- My time in the world is over
- Theirs' is not
- **Requests 1 and 2 for disciples**
 1. Keep them in Thy name
 2. Let them be one
- While I was here, I guarded them successfully
 - Do you think the disciples knew that?
 - We don't realize ½ of what God has done for us
- Reference to My joy again, even with them having tribulation in world
- I gave them Thy word
 - Again, the reference to His word, must be important
 - As leaders, this should be our goal
- I don't ask to take them out of the world – Why not?
 - They have a job to do
 - Glorify God
 - Give people the word
 - Help people know God
- **Request 3**
 - Keep them from the evil one
 - Not, keep them from evil
 - Literally, not “out of the world, but to keep them out of the power of the evil one.”
- V. 16 – they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world
 - We were and now are not, because of Christ
- **Request 4**
 - V. 17 - “Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth.”
 - What does this mean?
 - Set them apart by keeping them in the truth. Keep them in Thy word
 - I was sent, now I am sending them
 - I sanctified Myself for them; sanctify them for who? – the world v. 20

Prayer for all who will believe – Jesus intercedes for us

- **Request 1**
 - That we may all be one, even as God and Jesus are one
 - How are we doing?
- **Request 2**
 - That we may be in God
 - For what reason? – That the world may believe
- See the progression?
 - See the program of God for the Church Age?
 - Jesus – Disciples – Believers – World
 - Other Gospels end with Great Commission
 - Here we see the reasoning

- Jesus gives us the glory of God
- For what reason – unity and love as a draw to the world
- **Request 3** – For us to be with Jesus

V. 25-26 summary

V. 18:1 – Only now does Jesus go to Gethsemane

- Prays first for others
 - Is that how we do it?
- Prays so that they can hear His prayer
 - Why – to take comfort and to learn

David L Hoshour

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH
JOHN 18
VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

- After Jesus had spoken these words
 - Time for instruction, parting words was past
 - Time for battle and by all appearances it will go very badly today
- Garden
 - Jesus knew it would be the place of betrayal, even how it would go down
 - Yet, knowing this, he still made it a favorite place to go with his disciples
 - If they knew what he knew they would not have gone there that night
 - Jesus knew and specifically went there that night
 - Soldiers don't know all the generals know
 - Think they do, and better
 - Complaints are a staple of military life, especially during war
 - Nothing is done right plans don't always work according to plan
 - Pain and hardship are the norm
 - We live in a fallen world
 - We live and work on a battlefield
 - The main thing a soldier cannot do is disobey orders
 - That's why it is drilled into them so hard
 - People rebel because
 - They think it's unfair or wrong
 - They think they know better than the unseen general far away
 - It's their life on the line
 - Our Commander in Chief is absolutely perfect in love and wisdom
 - I'm only a squad leader but I've been around awhile and seen a few things
 - Winston Churchill
 - "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat"
 - "It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."
 - What soldier doesn't complain?
 - Seals, Rangers, Delta Force, Team 6
 - Don't complain
 - Train under the worst conditions
 - Anything better than hell is a bonus
 - Don't back down from a daunting challenge
 - Do we ever feel like Jesus has not done for us what He ought?
 - He knows what we don't
- Interlude of 3 hours not written here, done in detail by other Gospel writers
- Whom do you seek?
 - "I am" times 3
 - Jesus, worn out and bloody from prayer, yet still powerful
 - They drew back, falling at his "I am"

- Like Master Obi Won Kenobi who in serenity withholds his saber
 - Peter is not so serene
 - He knows a battle and is ready and courageous to defend the One he loves
 - Peter is right out of a “sword and sandals” epic or *Braveheart*
 - We, with hindsight, think him foolish but if we do we miss the point
 - Peter remembered the story of Shammah who took his stand in the middle of the field of lentils and struck down a whole troop of the Philistines and won a great victory that day – 2 Sam 23:11-12
 - Healing of Malchus
 - John is only one of 3 writers who mention’s Malchus’ name
 - John knew the high priest though we are not sure how
 - As always, Jesus in pain and weakness thinks of another and heals him
 - Even though the man was arresting the Son of God with torches and club
 - Reminds me of Jesus, leaving an attempt on his life, stopping to heal the blind man
 - “Love your enemies”
 - The incident contrasts Jesus, the spiritual man w Peter the man of flesh
 - How would you fare in that comparison – better than Peter?
 - “Shall I not drink this cup?”
 - Jesus had all power, yet did not resist evil at this time
 - John contrasts the power that causes people to fall back with Jesus’ surrender to evil
- Jesus is arrested, bound by Roman cohort – 600 men
- House of Annas first, later to Caiaphas – only John tells us this
 - Annas – corrupt man of power
 - Had been high priest from 6-16 AD
 - Then installed four of his sons or sons in law
 - High priesthood was by law for life
 - In Roman times it became political, bought with money, who knows what else
 - Annas was immensely wealthy by controlling the extortion racket of buying and selling in the temple
 - Jesus had threatened his honey pot and source of power
 - Simon Peter was following Jesus
 - So was another disciple (John)
 - Where is James, the other member of the inner circle?
 - John goes in because he knows the high priest
 - Peter remains outside the door
 - John speaks authoritatively to the doorkeeper
 - Peter comes in to the courtyard of the highest Jewish ruler who is putting on a sham trial
 - Courage
 - I think Peter overheard how trial was going and became fearful, his last hope for Jesus’ triumph gone

- Bad circumstances can test our faith
 - With lack of faith fear can make its entrance
 - Like being discovered in Hitler's house when the plot goes bad
 - Officers are standing next to you while she identifies you
 - Fear struck Peter like a thunderbolt at the servant girl's accusation
 - It is wrong for us to blame Peter for his fear and not praise his courage
 - Kangaroo Court
 - Jewish law forbade asking the accused a question by which he would incriminate himself
 - Annas ignored this
 - Jesus pointed this out
 - Not in hopes of a mistrial
 - To point out sin in the accuser
 - Meanwhile in the courtyard
 - Several people now asked if Peter was not a disciple
 - Then a relative of Malchus who was at the garden accused him
 - Three denials and then the cockcrow
 - Odd for a rooster to crow at night
 - Some people think it was the trumpet call for the changing of the guard shift at 3am
 - Latin and Greek words for this trumpet call mean literally "cockcrow"
 - Whatever, Peter got the point
- Why is the Peter denial story written?
 - It is not to portray Peter as fool
 - Jesus did not name Simon, Peter the Rock to mock him
 - Peter was the leader
 - Most zealous for Christ's respect
 - Most smitten with Christ's holiness
 - Most willing to come to Jesus in time of storm
 - Most willing to defend the one he loves with his life
 - Most full of faith in Garden, perhaps remembering Shammah
 - Most courageous – to go into the Godfather's courtyard
 - Even the strongest, most courageous, the leader failed Jesus
 - Remember how the hero often goes past the corpses of those who failed before
 - In the real world, not the legendary world, all men fail
 - Futility of man's strength in achieving the plan of God
- Before Pilate
 - Jews did not enter the Roman governor's house
 - It was Passover and they wanted to eat the Passover that night
 - Going into a Gentile's house would have made them ritually unclean
 - What irony
 - What is the accusation?
 - He is an evil-doer

- Pilate wanted no part of a Jewish religious problem
 - We can't kill anyone
 - Pilate went back to the Praetorium
 - Are you the King of the Jews, he asked?
 - Why do you ask?
 - My kingdom is not of this world (yet)
 - That's what Peter did not understand
 - I am a king
 - I came into the world for this
 - To testify to the truth
 - Everyone of the truth hears my voice (in sense of obedience)
 - Others do not
 - Pilate sneers, "What is truth?"
 - Could mean what does truth matter? Power matters.
 - Could be said by our own politicians today
 - Our whole culture shouts it in derision
 - Truth is what you make it, they say
 - Follow your heart
 - Who knows what is true?
 - Pilate's verdict – "I find no fault in this man"
 - Then Pilate demonstrated that truth doesn't matter
 - First he made a shrewd offer
 - They chose Barabbas, a murderer over Jesus
 - Anyone but Jesus
 - Again, this is a picture of our world
 - Any religion but Christianity
 - Bar – abba – s "Son of the Father"
 - A self-given name
 - The Father himself had declared Jesus to be his Son
- Whole story is one of gross injustice
 - Yet, out of it will come a result greater than anyone could dream
 - The Unseen General knows what He is doing

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 19

REVIEW– the arrest of Jesus

Garden (Gethsemane)

- Jesus
 - 2nd Adam back in the garden, prevailing in most powerful confrontation ever
 - Jesus' humanity screamed against the pain, suffering, death to come, also shame
 - Godliness screamed against becoming sin, separation from the Father
 - Where Jesus 1st shed His blood – great drops of blood from agony
 - Jesus courage, authority, decision to die, obedience, concern for others
- Judas and his false kisses
- Roman cohort of 100s
- Great crowd with lanterns, torches, weapons
- Officers from chief priests and Pharisees
- Peter ready to die in glory saving Jesus, opposing the will of God

Before Annas, godfather of Jerusalem

- Annas
 - Filthy rich former high priest made rich by corrupt fleecing of worshippers
 - High priest for 6 years, then controls things so that the next 7 high priests are 5 of his sons, a son-in-law (Caiaphas), grandson
 - Gets his revenge against Jesus who twice overturning his tables in the temple
- Jesus is before the kangaroo court meeting secretly at night, dark, w/o witnesses
- Peter and John – loving, courageous, curious

Before Caiaphas, the corrupt high priest

- False Witnesses
- Peter's 3rd denial
 - Gave Peter the painful humility he needed to become leader of early church
 - Met the true enemy
 - Pogo – “we have met the enemy and it is us”
 - Harder to kill enemy within than without
 - Dying daily to our carnal nature is the battle we must win
 - We kill it not by swinging a sword
 - We kill by volunteering to go to the cross every day

See the contrasts?

- Jesus to Peter – both fought in the Garden, only one prevailed
- Jesus, the eternal, pure high priest to Annas, Caiaphas – temporal and corrupt

TODAY

Read John 18:28-19:16

Story of struggle between Pilate and the Jews to crucify Jesus

Pilate, who gave orders to send a Roman guard last night to arrest Jesus is having 2nd thoughts
Jews are relentless in their drive to kill Jesus

Who are the main characters in our story?

- Jesus
- Pilate
- Jewish leaders
 - Include crowd who are just pawns
 - Who is in the crowd?
 - Part of mob in the garden perhaps
 - It is 4-5AM– hand picked no-gooders

3 rulers

- Priest – spiritual
- Pilate – political
- Jesus – King of Kings – in might and right

3 mindsets

- Pilate – frustrated and fearful ruler who did what was expedient
- Jews – hateful, jealous, aggressive, got their way and sealed their doom
- Jesus – calm, settled in purpose, perfect in character, did what was really needed

3 legacies

- Jews – will mourn for the one they pierced as one mourns an only son
- Pilate – scorned for centuries
- Jesus – saved the souls, changed the destiny of everyone that would accept Him

Jewish leaders

- How would you describe them in this section?
 - Hatred - Contrast of hatred with the one Who is love
 - Hypocrites - Meticulous attention to details of ritual purity as they hound Messiah to the cross
 - Clear up apparent discrepancy between John and Synoptics
 - Mark 14:12, Matt. 26:17, Lk. 22:7 “on 1st day of Feast of Unleavened Bread when Paschal lamb was being sacrificed, was the day of Last Supper, and so rest of crucifixion
 - John 18:28, 19:14 – sounds like this was day before Passover meal
 - In Deut. 16:1-3 *Pesach* refers to all meals of Passover week (1st lamb could not be eaten as leftovers, had to eat it all)
 - 2 Chron. 35:18 Passover refers to the whole week
 - Many Jewish writings do the same
 - These other sacrifices on days 2-7 were called *Chagigah* or festive offerings

- *Chagigah* was offered after the morning service, eaten during day
 - If you became unclean you were only unclean for that day and clean again after sundown when new day started
 - Since *Pesach* meal was eaten after sundown going into the house of a Gentile would not have made them unclean, it would have made them unclean for the *Chagigah* eaten during the same day
 - Jews want to take care of Jesus in the proper way
 - How often do we fuss over small things and miss the big picture?
 - Speaker's misstatement – we focus on it for hours, forget his subject
 - Focus on getting seat next to friends and forget to prepare for worship
 - Focus on So and So's appearance and not their needs
 - Focus on kids' and spouses' small misdeeds and forget to encourage them
 - Concentrate on details of our mission prep (skits, costumes, etc.) and forget what God wants to do in preparing us
 - Focus on details of job to which God has called us forget why we're there
- Liars
 - Are they really delivering him because he claimed to be Caesar rival?
 - "We have no king but Caesar." – True, God was not their king
- Murderers of an innocent man
 - Can't legally put Jesus to death
 - Stoning of Stephen in Acts was illegal
 - Talmud says 40 years before fall of Jerusalem, *ius gladii* was taken away
 - Same time Jesus started his ministry
- Spiritually deaf – God is before them and they hear Him
- Like the world, in darkness – in the world and of the world
- Now that we've trashed them, how are we like them on these same points?
 - Hypocrisy
 - Do you live up to the standard you talk about? – **Give examples**
 - Do you do things with wrong motives? – **Give examples**
 - Do you think the ends justify the means?
 - Hatred
 - Do you hate terrorist Muslims?
 - Do you hate abortion doctors?
 - Ted Kennedy, Hilary Clinton?
 - Anger, demand for justice – OK
 - What if you were in the room with one
 - Could you have the calmness and control of Jesus toward Jews?
 - Death of an innocent man
 - Yes, if you have ever hated your brother
 - Yes, if you had anything to with the death of Jesus – did you?
 - Spiritually deaf
 - Like the world

Pilate

- Ruler since 26AD
- Probably did well elsewhere to be given such a hard place
- Under great pressure to keep peace in Judea, Samaria, Idumea
 - Israel was land bridge between Europe and Africa and peace was crucial
 - Got in trouble several times before with Jews over the last few years
 - Emperor's bust on top of the standards of the soldiers who came w him when he visited Jerusalem (lived in Caesarea, not Jerusalem)
 - To the Jews it was a graven image carried through Jerusalem
 - Pilate gathered them in the amphitheater in Caesarea and threatened to kill them if they didn't stop complaining, they bared their necks and he had to back down
 - Raided the temple treasury for \$ to build an aqueduct
 - Inscribed the name of the emperor on votive shields in Herod's palace in Jerusalem, enraged Jews appealed to Caesar who overruled Pilate and had them removed
- Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, yet he has an uprising on his hands
 - Catch 22 – in trouble either way
 - Notice the Jews aren't asking for a trial, only sentencing
- First he tries to get out of it, which he certainly could have if not for riot potential
- Then he questions Jesus privately about being a king, the charge Jews brought
 - Jesus' answer about being a king
 - Yes, I am a king but my kingdom is not of this world
 - King of kings
 - Sovereign over the universe
 - Theme for Bible might be "The Kingdom of God"
 - How is His kingdom not of this world?
 - Authority is not given Him by men
 - Not run the same way
 - Pilate and Jews' kingdom
 - Power, selfishness, jealousy, striving, harming rivals, run on \$
 - World and its rulers mirror each other
 - God's kingdom
 - Runs on love, purity, selflessness, "in honor preferring one another"
 - To the glory of one being alone – God
 - He is perfectly able to rule with all
 - Knowledge
 - Wisdom
 - Goodness
 - Sovereignty
 - Epitome of the beneficent ruler
- Not present in its fullness yet
 - Pilate and chief priests will bow their knee to Jesus

- Pilate seeks again to let him go by trading Barabbas, crowd would not have it
- Pilate seeks to satisfy crowd with punishment short of death
 - Soldiers mock his kingship - “Hail king of the Jews” – how ironic
 - Behold the man – see how I have made Him suffer, now let him go
- Pilate tries again to release him – tries at least 4 times – 18:31, 38-39, 19:6, 12
 - Like child that torments older sibling and when the elder tries to deal with him he says, “If you touch me, I’ll scream” – who does the parent correct – the elder – “leave him alone, I can’t take this” and the younger one smirks
- Finally, he washes his hands
 - This symbolic ritual is no better than the Jews and their Passover purity
 - Even to the end Pilate protests – behold your king . . . shall I crucify your king?
- So then he delivered him to be crucified

- These 29 verses are about Pilate’s struggle to deal with the Jesus/Jewish problem
 - We can’t push off onto someone else our dealing with Jesus
 - You can’t talk your way out of it
 - You can’t be bullied by the world, your friends, your family
 - Indian couple recently married at Central
 - Her family refused to come to the wedding, only one brother came
 - His family disowned him
 - Christianity will cost you everything
 - There is nothing you can put above God
 - God will test you in each weak area
- He will give you good in return, pressed down, shaken together, running over
- Worldly eyes see Jesus seized and killed
- Spiritual eyes see Jesus fully in control, choosing time, place, manner to die for us

Jesus

- Pretty quiet, not many red letters, no real action except to receive abuse
- He has given Himself over to them
- Mostly talks about His kingdom and authority
- Also talks about truth
 - During this repeated mockery of justice, Jesus says He was born to bear witness of the truth – see John 1 – showed us the Father
 - What is truth?
 - God is the truth
 - God’s Word is truth
 - Everyone who is “of the truth” hears his voice
 - What does “of the truth” mean? - Of God, of Jesus’ kingdom

Who is in control here?

- God
- Jesus, the powerful, quiet eye of the hurricane, the one truly in control
- Remember Jesus said to Peter, “Satan has asked to sift you like wheat?”
 - Why did Satan have to ask?
 - Because God is sovereign and watches over His own

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHAPTER 20

REVIEW – struggle between Pilate and the Jews – John 18:28-19:16

- Pilate – frustrated and fearful ruler who did what was expedient
- Jews – more like us than we think
- Jesus
 - The Truth in a mockery of justice, lies
 - The King vs. earthly rulers
 - Perfect in character vs. Jews, Pilate
 - Calm in midst of the storm
 - Did the ultimate good vs. the expedient and the worldly

TODAY – death and resurrection of Jesus

Read John 19:16-20:29

v. 17 – Bearing the cross for himself

- Q - What insights can you get from this verse?
 - A - Bore it alone
 - Until even Jesus needed help in his humanness
- Q - Do we bear our crosses alone?
 - No, like Simon of Cyrene, Christ bears it with us
 - One of my favorite pictures – Jesus and Simon of Cyrene shoulder to shoulder
 - If you look across, you will see Jesus walking, bearing with you
 - Like yoke on a team of oxen
 - My burden is light
 - Why? He is stronger, able to bear as much as we give Him
 - Like yoking together a massive, mature plow horse and his growing son
 - Even Jesus had help after awhile to bear his cross
 - That's why I encourage fellowship, discipleship
 - It is not good for man to be alone
- That yoke had a long trailing beam like a plow
 - That plow dug a furrow in the earth as He walked
 - That furrow was a grave
 - Jesus had talked about his death as a seed dropped into a furrow, dying, and rising to life
 - Out of it grows something beautiful, productive, good, full of life
 - But this was not Jesus' grave – his was in a garden tomb
 - This furrow was a grave for death
 - Grave for Hell

- Grave for the grave
- Golgotha – place of the skull – place of death
 - Like walking to the firing line, carrying the rifle of your executioner
 - Or walking down death row to chamber, carrying your cables or syringe
- He died as He lived
 - Died reproached by sinful men though He was the pure Lamb of God
 - Died with criminals just as he lived with prostitutes and swindlers
 - Again, a contrast – pure, innocent Jesus placed between two thieves
 - Hands stretched out to sinners on either side
 - One believed, one did not
 - On the ground were soldiers gambling for his clothes – Ps. 22:14-18
 - Always 4 soldiers, usually 5 pieces of clothing
 - Shoes, turban, girdle, tunic, outer robe
 - Each got one and then gambled for the seamless tunic
 - Q – What is significance of tunic being seamless?
 - High priest wore a seamless tunic
 - Latin for priest is *pontifex*, meaning *bridge builder*
 - Died with faithful women at his feet
 - Mary his mother
 - Imagine her pain
 - She had seen this day, remember prophecy in temple? Lk. 2:35
 - Salome
 - Mary's sister, Jesus' aunt
 - Mother of James and John
 - She was rebuked by Jesus for her request for her sons sit at his side
 - She ended up in a different place – at his feet
 - Mary Magdalene (Mary the Magdalene like Jesus the Nazarene)
 - Mary the wife of Clopas, mother of other James and of Joses
 - John the apostle and writer of the Gospel
 - His love for Jesus kept him with him all the way
 - There with his own mother
 - Given charge of Jesus' mother
 - Died concerned for others
 - Gave his mother to John to take care of
 - Not because He had no brothers, but no believing brothers in his family
 - Died as a revelation to the Christian and a mystery to the mocker
 - Died King of the Jews – yes He was, but it was not apparent to most onlookers
 - Died giving life to others just like when He opened both physical, spiritual eyes
 - Died healing and saving others, changing their eternal destiny – Is. 53
 - Died forgiving as He had numerous times in life
 - Died and lived as an example
 - Died between heaven and earth
 - Link between God and man
 - Feet 1-3 ft off the ground
 - Hyssop on which the soldier extended the vinegar sponge only grew 2-3 ft

- Hyssop was also used for the first Passover – Ex. 12:21-22
 - Hyssop applied the blood to the doorpost so death-angel would pass over
- “It is finished”
 - One of the greatest lines ever spoken
 - What was finished?
 - Power of sin
 - Power of the enemy
 - Power of the grave
 - Mission to which God had called Him
- Not a bone was broken as with the others not yet dead who had been beaten so badly
 - Ex. 12:46, Num. 9:12
 - Broke legs of the other men so they would die more quickly
 - Romans were not concerned with this – everywhere else they let people suffer until they finally died, then let vulture eat the dead flesh
 - Got this from the Persians, from where they learned crucifixion
 - Jews did not want people hanging on a tree overnight so legs were broken
 - Why Jesus had to gotten down so quickly, Sabbath was starting soon
 - Crucified at 9AM, darkness at noon, died at 3PM, probably 4 hours til night
- Spear was thrust into his lifeless heart
 - Water and blood flowed out
 - Significance – water for cleansing and blood for life and forgiveness
 - How do we know the spear went into His heart?
 - Dead men don’t bleed – no blood pressure
 - But heart is filled with blood
 - Pericardial sac around heart when body is severely stressed can fill w clear fluid like water
 - They shall look on Him that they pierced – Zech. 12:10
- Body was taken and buried by two secretly believing Pharisees
 - Probably both members of Sanhedrin
 - Joseph of Arimathea – went to Pilate and asked for the body
 - Nicodemus – brought enough spices to bury a king – 80 lbs.
 - Were they at Caiaphas’ house?
 - Why come out when Jesus had just died?
 - They still believed He was the Messiah, dead or not

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DEFENDING YOUR FAITH GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 21

- 7 disciples, gone fishing with Peter
 - Is it curious that disciples are not preaching or witnessing after the resurrection?
 - Odd time – Jesus is appearing only sporadically
 - Disciples aren't in the roles they will be
 - Why are things like this?
 - Transition time
 - Jesus is tapering off his physical appearances with the disciples
 - From touching to believing in faith
 - From walking and talking face-to-face to praying and seeking on knees
 - Disciples are not yet clear on Jesus' expectations
 - Soil of their hearts is being prepared
 - Call to preach has not yet come
 - For the group of disciples it will be on Mount of Olives
 - For Peter, it will come now
 - Verse 4
 - Day is breaking
 - Jesus is standing on the shore but they don't know it is Him
 - How often we fail to see Jesus
 - Morning prayer – Lord, help me to see you
 - In the small signs
 - In people – the least of these, your brethren
 - Rhyme of the miraculous draught of fishes
 - Again, Jesus is providing for them
 - Size of the provision is part of the miracle – 153 great fish
 - Rhyme of giving the loaves and fishes to eat – 1st happened by this lake
- Jesus essentially says to Peter, “If you love me, I have a job for you.”
 - If you love Jesus, you will see a place to minister unto Him
 - Call grows out of love for Jesus – that is the fundamental motivation for ministry

Notes are short – much more discussion time than lecture time today

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH JOHN 21 ADDITIONAL MATERIAL RESURRECTION REFERENCES JOHN – 1 PETER

John 2:18 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Acts 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. Acts 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. Acts 5:31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. Acts 10:40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, Acts 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Acts 13:30 "But God raised Him from the dead; Acts 13:31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. Acts 13:32 "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

Acts 17:2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, Acts 17:3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

Acts 17:22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. . . . Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Acts 26:22 "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; Acts 26:23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the *Gentiles*."

Rom 4:23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, Rom 4:24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, Rom 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:5 For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; Rom 6:7 for he who has died is freed from sin. Rom 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, Rom 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. Rom 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 Cor 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Cor 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Cor 15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 1 Cor 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 1 Cor 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 1 Cor 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

1 Cor 15:12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 1 Cor 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 1 Cor 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 1 Cor 15:15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 1 Cor 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 1 Cor 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 1 Cor 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 1 Cor 15:19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 1 Cor 15:21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

2 Cor 4:14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

In it we have hope 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 1 Pet 1:21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.